



Douglas College

Douglas College Learning Centre

WAYS TO CONNECT CLAUSES IN SENTENCES

If you only use short simple sentences, your writing will seem too simple for academic work. By connecting short sentences to each other, you can make your writing more academic and more interesting. This handout suggests ways you can connect clauses into longer sentences.

The Clause

A clause is like a simple sentence. It expresses a complete idea. A clause must have both a subject and a verb. Here are some examples of clauses:

the student walked across the concourse
subject verb

Jessica has been playing the piano all night
subject verb

the table was set for dinner
subject verb

the baby cried
subject verb

The following are not clauses. Can you see why not? Discuss these with your tutor.

excited about the party

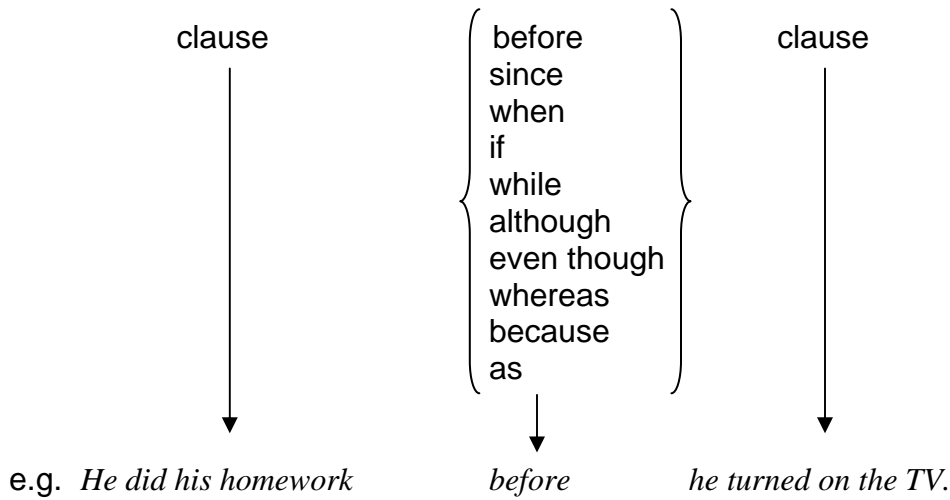
on the table at the front of the room

after working all night

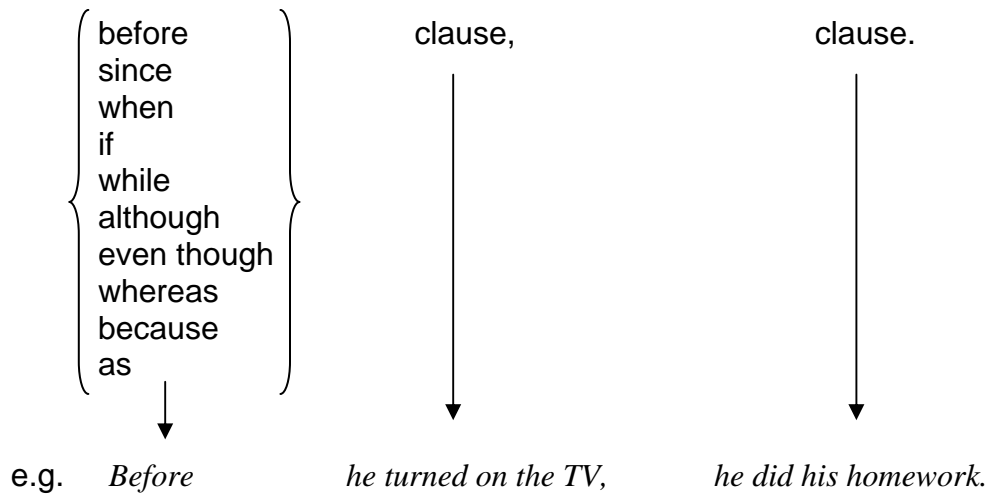
the woman in the red dress

If you have difficulty deciding what is a clause and what isn't a clause, work on the Learning Centre handout "Subjects and Verbs" before you go further in this handout.

Type 3: Use a Subordinator Between the Two Clauses



Type 4: Use a Subordinator at the Beginning of a Sentence and a comma after the first clause



For a more complete list of connecting words and their meanings, see the Learning Centre handout “Connectors: Usage and Meaning”.