



Conjunctions (and/but/or/because/although/so): Subordinating Conjunctions: Time & Reason

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I always have breakfast ____ I go to work.
a) before
b) after
c) until
d) since
- We were playing in the garden. ____ it started raining, we ran inside.
a) When
b) Until
c) Before
d) While
- She was reading a book ____ her brother was playing video games.
a) when
b) before
c) until
d) while
- We went for a walk ____ we had finished lunch.
a) before
b) while
c) after
d) until
- ____ he has a car, he prefers to cycle to work.
a) Although
b) Because
c) When
d) After
- Please wait here ____ I come back.
a) while
b) until
c) when
d) before
- ____ she is the oldest in the team, everyone respects her opinion.
a) Until
b) While
c) Since
d) Before
- I'll call you ____ I arrive at the airport. I promise not to keep you waiting.
a) until
b) before
c) while
d) as soon as
- He didn't say anything ____ the meeting ended.
a) as soon as
b) until
c) while
d) after
- ____ the weather was nice, we decided to have a picnic.
a) Until
b) Before
c) While
d) As
- Turn off the lights ____ you leave the room.
a) while
b) until
c) when
d) after

12. We stayed at the beach ____ the sun went down.
a) before
b) after
c) when
d) until
13. She felt much better ____ she took the medicine.
a) after
b) before
c) until
d) since
14. You should check your answers ____ you hand in the test.
a) after
b) while
c) before
d) as soon as
15. The children were playing outside ____ their parents were cooking dinner.
a) before
b) while
c) after
d) until
16. I missed the bus, ____ I walked to school.
a) so
b) because
c) while
d) before
17. ____ the exam was very difficult, most students passed.
a) Because
b) Although
c) As soon as
d) After
18. I'll lend you my notes ____ I've finished reading them.
a) before
b) while
c) until
d) after
19. He always locked the door from the inside ____ he went to sleep.
a) after
b) until
c) before
d) while
20. ____ you happen to need any help, don't hesitate to ask me.
a) When
b) If
c) Since
d) After



Answers

1. a) before
2. a) When
3. d) while
4. c) after
5. a) Although
6. b) until
7. c) Since
8. d) as soon as
9. b) until
10. d) As
11. c) when
12. d) until
13. a) after
14. c) before
15. b) while
16. a) so
17. b) Although
18. d) after
19. c) before
20. b) If



Explanations

1. “before” (a)

'Before' means earlier than — breakfast comes first, then going to work.

2. “When” (a)

'When' introduces the moment something happened — the rain started, so they reacted by running inside.

3. “while” (d)

'While' connects two actions happening at the same time — reading and playing happened simultaneously.

4. “after” (c)

'After' means later than — they finished lunch first, then went for a walk.

5. “Although” (a)

'Although' introduces a surprising contrast — you'd expect someone with a car to drive, but he cycles instead.

6. “until” (b)

'Until' means up to the point when — keep waiting from now to the moment I return.

7. “Since” (c)

'Since' here means 'because' — her seniority is the reason people respect her opinion. 'Since' is slightly more formal than 'because'.

8. “as soon as” (d)

'As soon as' means immediately when — the promise not to keep someone waiting confirms the call will happen right at the moment of arrival.

9. “until” (b)

'Until' shows that his silence continued up to the point the meeting ended.

10. “As” (d)

'As' here means 'because' — the nice weather was the reason for the picnic. 'As' is a formal way to give a reason.

11. “when” (c)

'When' indicates the moment of leaving — switch off the lights at the time you leave.

12. “until” (d)

'Until' shows they remained at the beach up to the point the sun set.

13. “after” (a)

'After' shows the sequence — taking medicine happened first, then feeling better followed.

14. “before” (c)

'Before' means earlier than — checking should happen first, before handing in.

15. “while” (b)

'While' shows two actions happening at the same time — playing and cooking were simultaneous.

16. “so” (a)

'So' introduces the result of missing the bus. This is a coordinating conjunction — notice the difference from subordinating conjunctions like 'because'.

17. “Although” (b)

'Although' introduces a surprising fact — despite the difficulty, students still passed. 'Because' would not work here as the meaning is contrast, not cause.

18. “after” (d)

'After' shows the order — I need to finish reading first, then I'll lend them.

19. “before” (c)

'Before' means earlier than — he locked the door first (from the inside), then went to sleep.

20. “If” (b)

'If' introduces a condition — 'happen to' emphasises that needing help is a possibility, not a certainty, which matches the conditional meaning of 'if'.