

Before you start

1 Review these intermediate grammar points and check you know them.

Sentences and clauses

- 1 A sentence consists of one or more clauses; in writing, it starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop:

clause 1 clause 2
The village was evacuated as soon as the volcano started to rumble .

- 2 In the example above, clause 1 is an independent or main clause – it has meaning of its own and can stand alone. Clause 2 is a dependent or subordinate clause – it has meaning only in relation to the main clause it accompanies.

Ways of linking

- 1 We link sentences and clauses with conjunctions (linking words that join two things). Coordinating conjunctions (*and, but, or*) link clauses of equal value, usually main clauses:
We can pay in one lump sum. We can pay in instalments.

→ *We can pay in one lump sum **or** we can pay in instalments.*

We can put either of the clauses first:

*We can pay in instalments **or** we can pay in one lump sum.*

- 2 We often want to link clauses that are not of equal value, i.e. a main clause and a subordinate clause. A subordinate clause always starts with a subordinating conjunction, e.g. *when, if, although*. The conjunction indicates the type of relationship between the main and the subordinate clause:

	MAIN CLAUSE	SUBORDINATE CLAUSE	
time	<i>Call me</i>	<i>when</i>	<i>you get home.</i>
condition	<i>Wait here</i>	<i>if</i>	<i>you want to see a supervisor.</i>
concession	<i>He passed</i>	<i>although</i>	<i>he'd hardly studied.</i>

Some subordinating conjunctions, e.g. *since*, can express different relationships, such as

- time: *We've lived here **since** we got married.*
- reason: *We've postponed the meeting **since** you're so busy this week.*

- 3 When we want to show a relationship between two sentences rather than two clauses within one sentence, we use a linking adverbial. We usually put this at the start of the second sentence, followed by a comma separating it from the sentence:

*There was an unprecedented response to our advert. **Therefore**, I am afraid we are taking your application no further.*

We can use linking adverbials to show different relationships such as

- time: *Our next stop is the island of Lefkas, **where** you have two hours to visit the port and have lunch. **After that**, we will be sailing to the smaller Ionian island of Ithaki ...*
- contrast: *Several students didn't obtain the required 40 percent in the exam needed for an overall pass. **Nevertheless**, they were awarded a pass grade on second marking.*