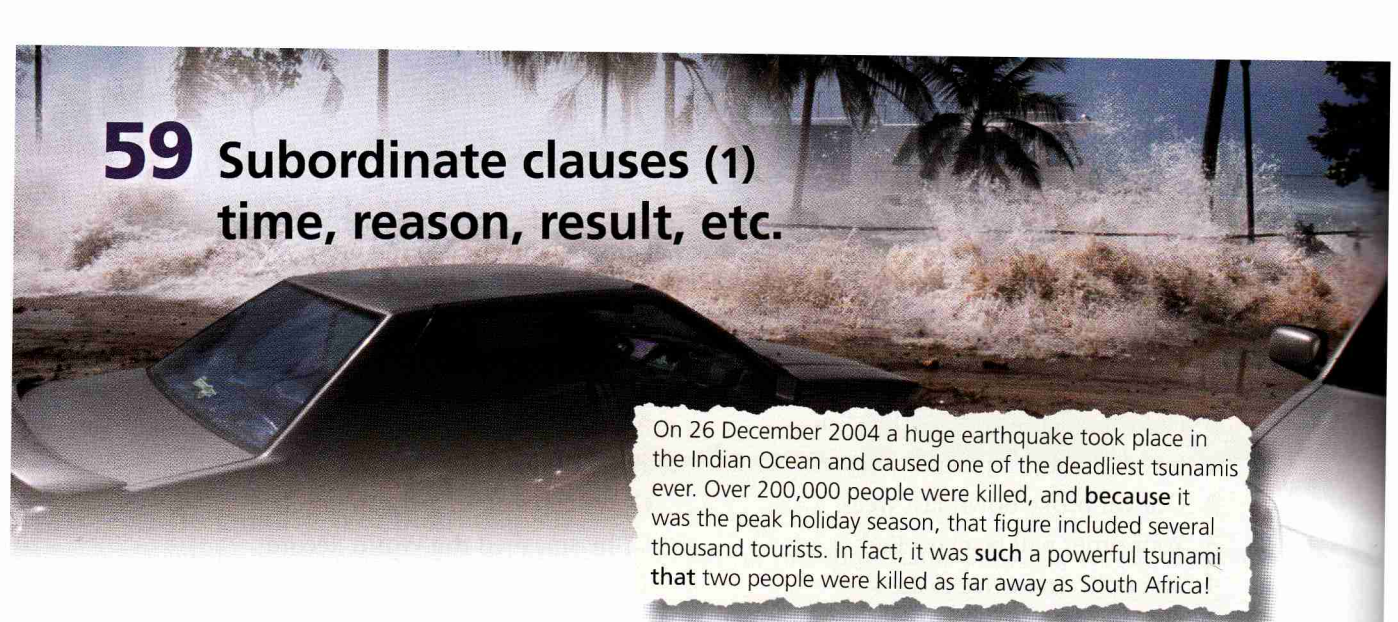


59 Subordinate clauses (1) time, reason, result, etc.



On 26 December 2004 a huge earthquake took place in the Indian Ocean and caused one of the deadliest tsunamis ever. Over 200,000 people were killed, and **because** it was the peak holiday season, that figure included several thousand tourists. In fact, it was **such** a powerful tsunami **that** two people were killed as far away as South Africa!

1 Time

The most common conjunctions of time are *when, as, after, before, while, until* and *since*:
*Rosemary waited **until** her children were at school **before** she started studying again.*

Other, less common conjunctions are *as soon as, once, whenever, now (that), the minute/moment (that), immediately* and *by the time (that)*:

*It was such a pity you didn't contact us **immediately/the moment** you got back.
Hurry up! **By the time** you're ready, all the tickets will be sold out!*

2 Reason

We usually give a reason with the conjunction *because*:

*We've kept the company at five people simply **because** the office is too small to take any more.
Several thousand tourists were killed **because** it was the peak holiday season.*

In speech, *because* is often shortened to 'cos /kɒz/.

Other conjunctions of reason are *since, as* and *for*. Whereas *because* can be used in all circumstances, *since* and *as* both introduce reasons that are already known:

*Terence, **since/as** you raised the subject, perhaps you could start by telling us your concerns.*

FORMALITY CHECK In formal speech and writing, we often use *given that* to introduce a reason that is already known:

***Given that** there are so few women in powerful positions in commerce, the number in politics is quite surprising.*

For is quite old-fashioned now and rarely used in conversation and informal writing:
*She decided not to move to a seaside resort, **for** they were full of old, retired people.*

In informal English, we would use *because* or *as*:

*She decided not to move to a seaside resort, **as** they were full of old, retired people.*

3 Purpose

The most common conjunction of purpose is *so that ... (not)*. We often omit *that*:
*Would you mind turning the monitor round **so (that)** other people can't see the screen?*

A more formal alternative is *in order that ... (not)*:

*Please leave all bins outside your property **in order that** rubbish collectors can access them easily.*

We can use *for fear that* when we don't want something to happen. It is also possible to use *lest* + subjunctive in this way, although this is quite old-fashioned:

*We didn't go in daylight **for fear that** we would be recognised/**lest** we **be** recognised.
(= so that we wouldn't be recognised)*

We can also use infinitive clauses after *in order* and *so as*:

*The school will be holding a number of events **in order to/so as to** raise money for repairs.*

Infinitive of purpose ► Unit 45.4