

48. SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS INTRODUCING CLAUSES OF REASON AND PURPOSE (*because, so that...*)

Subordinating conjunctions are words or phrases that introduce dependent clauses in a sentence.

Clauses of reason and purpose are dependent clauses used to explain why or for what purpose something occurs.

The most common subordinating conjunctions that introduce clauses of reason and purpose are: *because, since, as* and *so that*.

EXAMPLES	FUNCTION
<p>Subordinating conjunctions introducing clauses of reason</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>More and more people are moving to the suburbs <u>because</u> the cost of living in cities is becoming very expensive.</i> (The clause that starts with because explains why more people are moving to the suburbs.) ■ <i><u>Since</u> the cost of living in cities is becoming very expensive, more and more people are moving to the suburbs.</i> (The clause that starts with since explains why more people are moving to the suburbs.) ■ <i><u>As</u> the cost of living in cities is becoming very expensive, more and more people are moving to the suburbs.</i> (The clause that starts with as explains why more people are moving to the suburbs.) 	<p>Subordinating conjunctions introducing clauses of reason introduce the causes or explanations for the event or action expressed in the main clause.</p>
<p>Subordinating conjunctions introducing clauses of purpose</p> <p><i>The city plans to expand its low-rent housing programs <u>so that</u> low-income families will find affordable places to live.</i> (The clause that starts with so that explains the purpose of the action or event stated in the main clause.)</p>	<p>The subordinating conjunction introducing clauses of purpose – so that – introduces the objective or the purpose of an action or event expressed in the main clause.</p>

Note: *Because* cannot be a substitute for *so that*.

Incorrect: *The lawyer reviewed the case because she was prepared for the trial.*

The words after *because* express the **cause**. This makes the sentence incorrect because being prepared for a trial is not the cause of reviewing documents; instead, reviewing documents is the cause of being prepared for the trial.

Correct: *The lawyer reviewed the case so that she was prepared for the trial.*

The words after *so that* express the **purpose**. The purpose of reviewing the case is being prepared for the trial.