Grammar Bytes!
Coordination and Subordination

Should I *coordinate* with *for*?

Or would it be better to *subordinate* with *because*?
This presentation covers the differences between coordination and subordination and the relationship between clauses within a sentence.
A coordination and/or subordination item on an objective test might look like this ...
A. Jeremiah forgot to bring a pencil since he had to beg Amanda to borrow one of hers.

B. Since Jeremiah forgot to bring a pencil, he had to beg Amanda to borrow one of hers.

C. Even though Jeremiah forgot to bring a pencil, he had to beg Amanda to borrow one of hers.

Subordinating the first clause with *since*, as option *B* does, is correct.
Coordination

- Coordination gives *equal attention* to *two* items.
- Use coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, for, or, nor, yet,* and *so.*

The dog ate Marvin’s favorite tie, *and* the cat rubbed white hair on Marvin’s black suit.

Both clauses *could* stand *alone.* When *joined* with *and,* they get *equal attention.*
You can also coordinate with a _semicolon_.

The interviewer had seven Persian cats; _as a result, she_ would understand Marvin’s predicament.

Still _balanced_.

The interviewer had seven Persian cats; she would understand Marvin’s predicament.
Subordination

• Subordination gives less attention to one idea so that the other has emphasis.

• Use subordinate conjunctions, such as because, even though, and when.

Since Marvin tried to clean his suit, he was late to the interview.

I’m sorry.
Here are the subordinate conjunctions.

- after
- although
- as
- because
- before
- even though
- if, even if
- in order that
- once
- provided that
- since
- so [**that** implied], so that
- than
- that
- though
- unless
- when, whenever
- where, wherever, whereas
- whether
- while
Use a *comma* if you subordinate the *first* of the two clauses.

Subordinate clause + , + main clause.

*Even though* cat hair clung to Marvin’s pant legs, *he* still got the job.

The *first* clause is *less* important.

The *second* clause has *more* emphasis because its thought is *complete.*
Use *no punctuation* if you subordinate the *second* of the two clauses.

**Main clause** + Ø + **subordinate clause.**

Marvin smiled at his *success* as cat hair wafted in his wake.

Now the *first* clause is the *most important.*

The *second* clause has *less emphasis* because its thought is *incomplete.*
Quick Test, Part 1

**Directions:** In the items that follow, choose the most effective word or phrase within the context suggested by the sentence(s).

Show me what **you know**!
To impress Deepa, his date, Ryan labored over the chicken stir fry; ________, she took offense that he was serving meat after she had explained her vegetarianism.

A. furthermore
B. moreover
C. however
D. additionally
Thomas scores a 100 on the final exam, he cannot pass College Algebra, a class he is taking for the third time.

A. Because
B. Since
C. As a result,
D. Unless
The Rodriguez family breathed a sigh of relief when the giant oak withstood the hurricane winds; ____________, they gave thanks that crews restored electricity in twelve short hours.

A. as a result
B. moreover
C. however
D. on the other hand
Mackenzie’s clarinet squealed like a startled puppy, ________ she hadn’t practiced in weeks.

A. because  
B. for  
C. since  
D. unless
Grandma tasted the spaghetti sauce, she declared that it needed more basil and salt.

A. Unless
B. Although
C. Whereas
D. After
Quick Test, Part 2

**Directions:** In the items that follow, choose the sentence that expresses the thought most clearly and effectively and that has no errors in structure.

Now try *this type!*
A. We decided to skip breakfast, for a spider crawled out of the cereal box.
B. We decided to skip breakfast, and a spider crawled out of the cereal box.
C. We decided to skip breakfast, so a spider crawled out of the cereal box.
A. Madison and I decided to eat ice cream for dinner so that we had burned enough calories earlier at the gym.

B. Madison and I decided to eat ice cream for dinner because we had burned enough calories earlier at the gym.

C. Although Madison and I decided to eat ice cream for dinner, we had burned enough calories earlier at the gym.
A. Even though Hank vacuumed the rental car, he failed to remove all the hair of Bonkers, his golden retriever.

B. Unless Hank vacuumed the rental car, he failed to remove all the hair of Bonkers, his golden retriever.

C. Since Hank vacuumed the rental car, he failed to remove all the hair of Bonkers, his golden retriever.
Item 9

A. Bonkers retrieves anything round, but put away those CDs if you don’t want teeth marks in them.

B. Bonkers retrieves anything round, and put away those CDs if you don’t want teeth marks in them.

C. Bonkers retrieves anything round, so put away those CDs if you don’t want teeth marks in them.
A. Andre mowed the lawn while Celia watched soap operas on television.

B. While Andre mowed the lawn Celia watched soap operas on television.

C. While Andre mowed the lawn Celia, on the other hand, watched soap operas on television.
The End.