

Coordinating Conjunctions

Simple conjunctions that don't change the word order in a sentence.

aber (but) Ich bin müde, aber ich muss zur Schule gehen. I am tired, but I have to go to school. Connects clauses that contradict each other in truth or concept. Emphasis is placed on the difference between them.

denn (as, since, or because) Ich kaufe Gemüse, denn ich möchte einen Salat machen. I am buying vegetables because I want to make a salad. Presents a causal relationship between clauses.

Coordinating Conjunctions (cont)

oder (or) Willst du ein Buch lesen oder Schach spielen?/Er ist ganz sympathisch, oder? Do you want to read a book or play chess?/He is really nice, right? Used to provide a list or alternate options. In German, it's also commonly used in a non-conjunctive manner at the end of the question or inquiry as a kind of affirmative, similar to the English "right?"

und (and) Sie ist klug und hat viele Hobbys. She is clever and has lots of hobbies. Connects clauses and similar, related words or phrases.

Coordinating Conjunctions (cont)

sondern (but rather) Sie wohnt nicht in Berlin, sondern in Tübingen. She doesn't live in Berlin, but rather in Tübingen. Similar to aber, this introduces a contradictory clause. However, sondern typically suggests a correctior to the first clause.

By MSingleton



cheatography.com/msingleton/

Not published yet.

Last updated 14th February, 2025.

Page 1 of 6.

Sponsored by [Readable.com](https://readable.com)

Measure your website readability!

<https://readable.com>

Coordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| doch (yet, however) | Ich wollte zur Party kommen, doch ich war schon verabre- det. | I wanted to come to the party, but I already had plans. | Similar to aber in introd- ucing a contra- dictory clause. However, doch tends to carry a slightly more formal tone, and it may apply more signif- icance to the clause or statement that follows it. In some cases, it may translate more accurately as “anyway” or “indeed.” |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|

Coordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| hingegen (on the other hand) | Sie liebt Äpfel, ihre Freundin hingegen liebt Orangen. | She loves apples, her girlfr- iend, on the other hand, loves oranges. | Presents a contra- dictory or alternate object or scenario to what was previously mentioned. Hingegen is unique in that it acts more like a conjun- ctive “attac- hment” to the subject being described. It’s placed within the coordi- nating conjun- ction list since it does not create a subord- inate clause, nor does it change the position of the verb. |
|--|---|--|---|

Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions connect clauses, but an obvious relationship exists between them. A clause must be dependent on another for the entire meaning and significance of the sentence to be made clear.

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| als (when) | Als ich jung war, war ich sehr frech. | When I was young, I was very sassy. | To describe events of the past. These events are usually singular, completed moments that aren’t ongoing. |
|----------------------|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| anstatt (instead of) | Ich gehe zu Fuß, anstatt mit dem Auto zu fahren. | I walk instead of driving my car. | Presents an action, event or object that opposes, or is an altern- ative to, the formerly-- mentioned action, event or object. |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|



By MSingleton

cheatography.com/msingleton/

Not published yet.

Last updated 14th February, 2025.

Page 2 of 6.

Sponsored by [Readable.com](https://readable.com)

Measure your website readability!

<https://readable.com>

Subordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| bevor (before) | Bevor meine Eltern kommen, müssen wir das Wohnzimmer aufräumen. | Before my parents come, we have to clean up the living room. | Implies an action(that) that has or should come before another action. Bevor is not used for nouns. |
| da (as, because) | Da sie viele Meetings hat, arbeitet sie heute im Büro. | Since she has a lot of meetings, she's working in the office today. | Describes a causal relationship between clauses. Unlike denn, da can be used at the start of the sentence. |
| damit (so that, in that order) | Lass uns später losfahren, damit wir nicht im Stau stecken bleiben. | Let's leave later so we don't get stuck in traffic. | Presents a causal and often sequential, relationship between clauses. The clause following damit explains the purpose for the previous clause. |

Subordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| dass | Ich hoffe, dass du kommen kannst. | I hope that you can come. | Introduces a dependent clause that provides further explanation to the main independent clause. In some cases, native German speakers may not include dass in a sentence, if the overall context already implies it (in these instances, the sentence is essentially just two or more independent clauses with no verb order movement). |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|---|

Subordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|
| falls (in case) | Kaufen Sie Medikamente, falls Sie krank werden. | Buy some medicine in case you get sick. | Presents conditional scenarios; falls is derived from der Fall (case, issue). Often, falls is used to describe precautionary events that aren't known to occur with certainty. |
| indem (by) | Sie hat Englisch gelernt, indem sie fünf Jahre in Amerika gewohnt hat. | She learned English by living in America for five years. | Presents the cause or method of a mentioned scenario/-event, or the means in which a "goal" is reached. |



By MSingleton

Not published yet.

Last updated 14th February, 2025.

Page 3 of 6.

Sponsored by **Readable.com**

Measure your website readability!

<https://readable.com>

| Subordinating Conjunctions (cont) | | | | Subordinating Conjunctions (cont) | | | | Subordinating Conjunctions (cont) | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| nachdem (after, afterw-ards) | Sie macht ein Nickerchen, nachdem sie ihre Arbeit erledigt hat. | She takes a nap after she finishes her work. | Implies an action that has or should come after another action. Nachdem is not used for nouns. | obgleich (although, albeit, even though) | Er wollte mittanzen, obgleich er ungeschickt ist. | He wanted to dance along with everyone, though he is clumsy. | Describes a condition or scenario that leads to a contradictory or unanticipated event. Used more often in text than in casual conversation. | sobald (once, as soon as, by the time) | Sobald Sie angekommen sind, rufen Sie mich an. | Once you are ready, meet me at the restaurant. | Expresses an event that will occur immediately after another event occurs. |
| ob (whether/or not, if) | Sie wollen wissen, ob Greta das Abendessen kochen kann. | They want to know whether Greta can cook dinner. | A restricted "if" that applies solely to "yes/no" scenarios. | obwohl (although, albeit, even though) | Er gewann das Rennen, obwohl er nicht trainierte. | He won the race although he didn't practice. | The same function as obgleich , although obwohl is used more commonly in spoken conversation. | sofern (provided, as long as) | Ich kann einen Kuchen backen, sofern du die Zutaten kaufst. | I can bake a cake, provided you buy the ingredients. | etails conditions for an event to occur. Consists of a bit of formal falls. |
| | | | | seit (since) | Seit ich ein Teenager war, kaue ich Kaugummi. | Since I was a teenager, I've been chewing gum. | Describes an event that has started in the past and is implied to be ongoing. | | | | |



By MSingleton

Not published yet.

Last updated 14th February, 2025.

Page 4 of 6.

Sponsored by [Readable.com](https://readable.com)

Measure your website readability!

<https://readable.com>

Subordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| solange (so long as, while) | Solange Sie Ihren Hund haben, sind Sie in Sicherheit. | So long as you have your dog, you will be safe. | Cognate of English "so long." Details a (usually ongoing) condition in which a scenario would occur. |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| sonst (otherwise) | Ich muss los, sonst komme ich zu spät zur Arbeit. | I have to go, otherwise I'll be late for work. | Presents a scenario that would occur as a result of not following a condition or action. Often used to present warnings or precautions. |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| soweit (insofar as, as far as) | Soweit ich weiß, funktioniert der Computer. | As far as I know, the computer works. | Describes a degree (abstract or concrete) in which an action or scenario reaches. |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|

Subordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| statt (instead of) | Warum drehst du die Heizung auf, statt einen Pulli anzuziehen? | Why are you turning the heating up instead of putting on a sweater? | A shortened, informal version of anstatt , with the same function: presents an action, event or object that opposes, or is an alternative to, the formerly-mentioned action, event or object. |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| um...zu (in order to) | Er geht in die Bibliothek, um zu lernen. | He goes to the library in order to study. | Presents a reason or purpose for an action or scenario. When using um...zu , the infinitive form of a verb is used. |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|

Subordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| während (while) | Sie arbeitet am Computer, während er die Wohnung putzt. | She works on her computer whilst he cleans the apartment. | Describes events that w occur simultaously. |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| weil (because) | Sie ist wütend, weil sie ihre Brieftasche verloren hat. | She is angry because she lost her wallet. | Prese a causati relationship between clause. Unlike denn, can be used as the start of a sentence. |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| wann (if, when) | Sag mir, wann du zur Party kommst. | Tell me when you are coming to the party. | Describes a specific point in time in which something occurs which usually lead to another action. |
|------------------------|---|---|--|



By MSingleton

cheatography.com/msingleton/

Not published yet.

Last updated 14th February, 2025.

Page 5 of 6.

Sponsored by **Readable.com**

Measure your website readability!

<https://readable.com>

Subordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| wenn (if, whenever) | Wenn Sie Fahrrad fahren, tragen Sie immer Ihren Helm. | Whenever you ride a bike, always wear your helmet. | Presents a conditional scenario, typically repeated ones as opposed to singular scenarios or events that occur at a specific point in time. Therefore, wenn is not necessarily restricted to temporal situations and is more versatile than wenn in function. |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| wie (how, like/similar) | Können Sie mir sagen, wie ich zum Bahnhof komme? | Can you tell me how to get to the train station? | Presents a clause that asks or provides more information about a mentioned action. |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|

Subordinating Conjunctions (cont)

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| wo (where) | Wissen Sie, wo das Klassenzimmer ist? | Do you know where the classroom is? | Presents a clause that asks or provides information about a specific location. |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|

This makes the order of a subordinating clause Subject-Object-Verb, as opposed to Subject-Verb-Object. Subordinate clauses can also start trouble with the clause following them. In German sentences, the comma is used to cleanly separate the clauses. When a sentence is started by a subordinate clause, the clause that comes after the comma will also experience a word shift—specifically, the subject and verb of that clause will switch places.

Conjunctive Adverbs

Conjunctive Adverbs never send the verb to the end.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| deschalb (therefore) | Ich habe keine Zeit, deschalb muss ich gehen. | I don't have time, therefore I must go. |
|-----------------------------|--|---|

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| trotzdem (despite that, nevertheless) | Es war kalt, trotzdem ging sie schwimmen. | It was cold; nevertheless, she went swimming. |
|--|--|---|

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| daher (therefore, for that reason) | Er hat viel gearbeitet, daher ist er müde. | He worked a lot; therefore, he is tired. |
|---|---|--|

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| sonst (otherwise) | Beeil dich, sonst verpasst du den Bus. | Hurry up, otherwise you'll miss the bus. |
|--------------------------|---|--|

Conjunctive Adverbs (cont)

| | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| dann (then) | Er aß zu Mittag, dann machte er ein Nickerchen. | He ate lunch; then he took a nap. |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| folglich (consequently) | Sie hat trainiert, folglich hat sie das Rennen gewonnen. | She trained hard; consequently, she won the race. |
|--------------------------------|---|---|

They link two complete sentences together, expressing a relationship between them without subordinating one clause to the other.