

Position of subordinate clauses

A subordinating conjunction and its clause can go either before or after the main clause (depending on what is to be emphasized).

If you need money, just let me know.

Just let me know if you need money.

Although the necklace was expensive, she bought it.

She bought the necklace although it was expensive.

Because she was too angry, she tore up the letter.

She tore up the letter because she was too angry.

I went to work after I sent the kids to school.

After I sent the kids to school, I went to work.

When a subordinate clause begins a sentence, it is often separated by a comma, even if it is short.

Conjunctions in separate sentences

Normally a conjunction connects two clauses into one sentence. However, sometimes, a conjunction and its clause can stand alone. This usually happens in answers.

'Why are you crying?' 'Because John hit me.'

'When are you going to start?' 'When I am ready.'

'Why did you buy it?' 'Because I liked it.'

'Why are you leaving?' 'Because I'm fed up.'

Writers often separate clauses for emphasis. However, you must not overdo this.

Something has to be done. Before it gets too late. (Instead of 'Something has to be done before it gets too late.')

Afterthoughts can also be introduced by conjunctions.

OK, I did it - But I didn't mean to.