

# Conjunctions

# Getting Started

## What is a conjunction?

A conjunction links two or more words, phrases or clauses together.

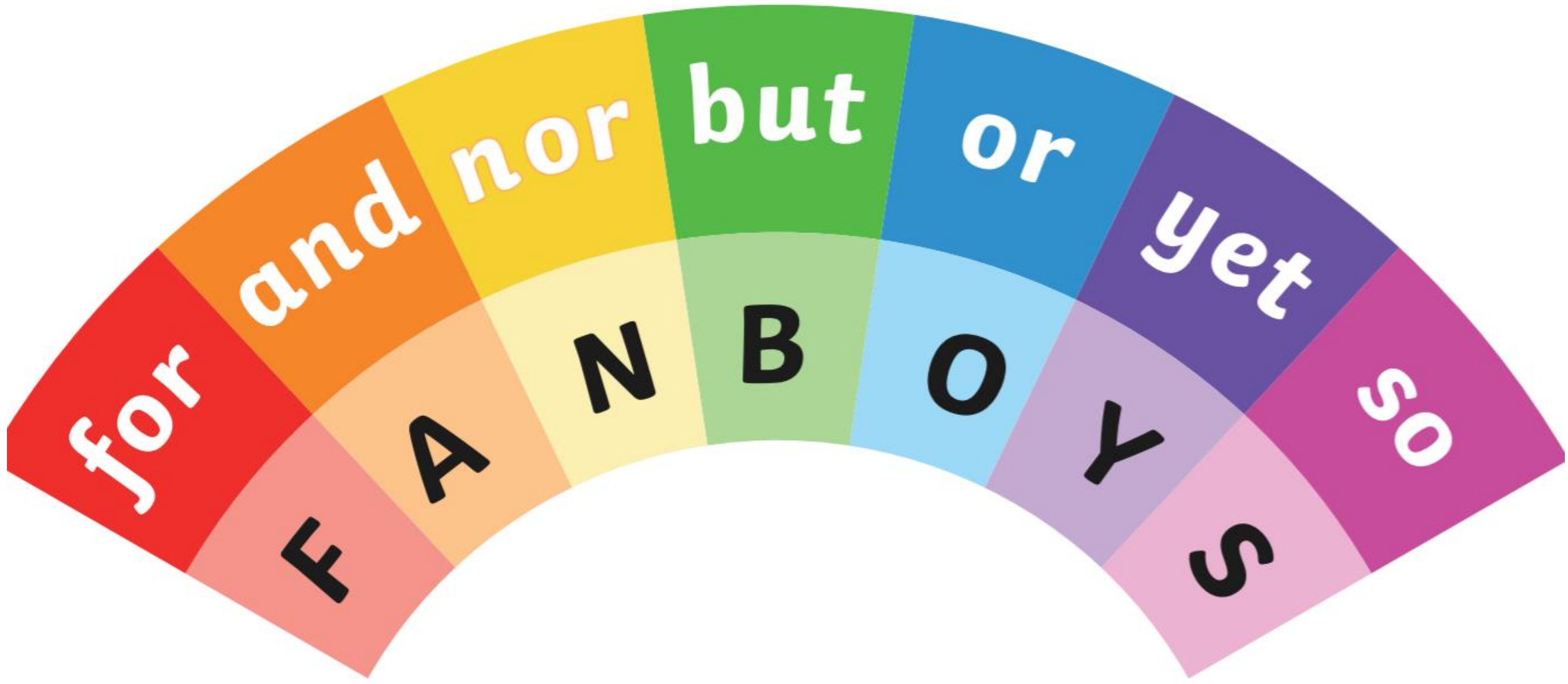
There are **two** main types of conjunctions we use within sentences.

Do you know what they both are?

- **co-ordinating conjunctions** (*e.g. and*) link two main clauses together as an equal pair to create a compound sentence. We usually remember these words using the acronym 'FANBOYS'.
- **subordinating conjunctions** (*e.g. when*) introduce a subordinate clause. You can remember some of the most useful subordinating conjunctions by...

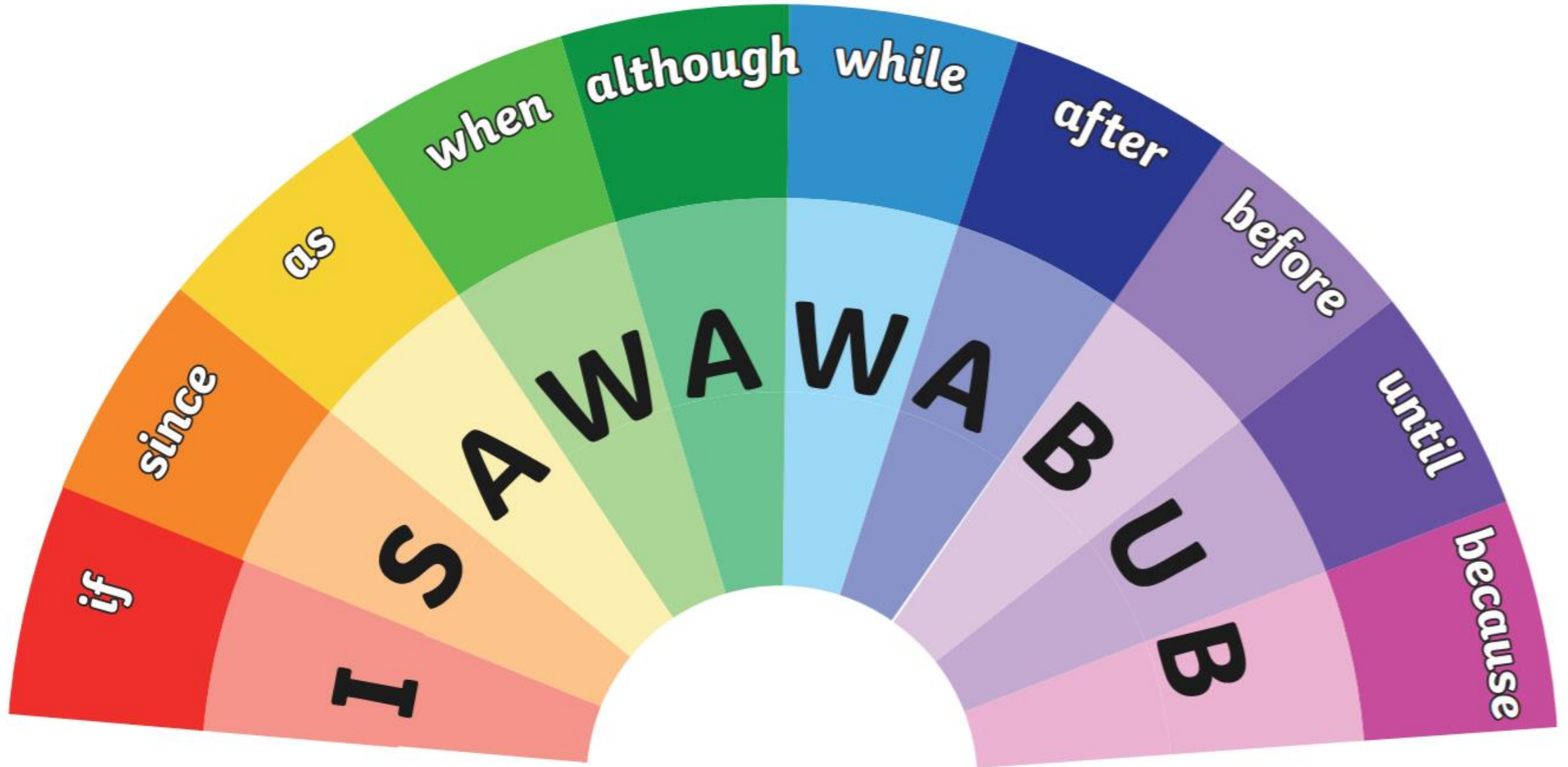
# Co-ordinating Conjunctions

There are seven co-ordinating conjunctions.  
They give equal importance to the words or sentences they connect.



# Subordinating Conjunctions

Here are 10 of the most common subordinating conjunctions. They are used at the beginning of a subordinating clause which is a clause that doesn't make sense on its own.



# Next Steps

So, how do we use subordinating conjunctions?

Subordinating conjunctions are the first words within a subordinate clause. Subordinate clauses do not make sense on their own but, when they are used with a main clause, they create a complex (multi-clause) sentence.

Subordinate clauses will always have a subject and verb within them, e.g.

after she smiled



subordinating  
conjunction



subject



verb

**is a subordinate clause**

after Christmas



Here 'after' is being  
used as a preposition.

**is not a subordinate clause**



## Next Steps

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Can you spot the **subordinate clause** and the **subordinating conjunction** in this sentence?

The eager pupils sped into school  
**when** the bell rang.



## Next Steps

I SAW A  
WABUB!



Can you spot the **subordinate clause** and the **subordinating conjunction** in this sentence?

Whales give birth to live young  
**as they are mammals.**





## Next Steps

I SAW A  
WABUB!



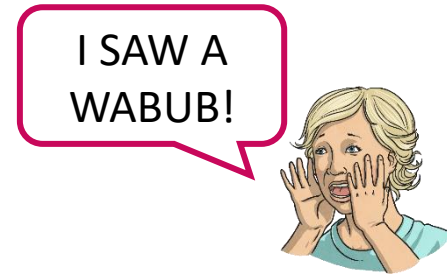
**When the bell rang,** the eager pupils  
sped into school.

Subordinating conjunctions can also be used as the first word in a sentence. When the subordinate clause comes before the main clause, make sure you remember to use a comma to mark where the subordinate clause ends.





## Practise Your Skills

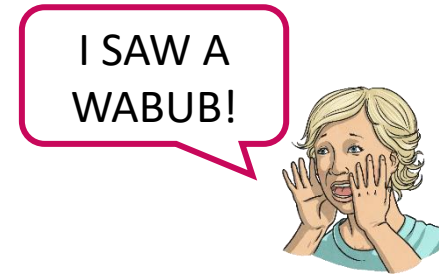


Now, it's your turn.  
Which subordinating conjunction would fit best  
at the start of this subordinate clause?  
Is there more than one possibility?

I am sending you a letter \_\_\_\_\_  
I am your biggest fan.



## Practise Your Skills



Now, it's your turn.  
Which subordinating conjunction would fit best  
at the start of this subordinate clause?  
Is there more than one possibility?

\_\_\_\_\_ I eat lunch, I am going  
to an important meeting.