

Exercise walk-through

Clauses and relationships between ideas ■ 7.5

eXercise

You must be able to

- distinguish coordination from subordination
- state what subordination does to the relative weight of two ideas
- identify the relationship a subordinating conjunction asserts
- explain the effect of a chosen structure

Method — Coordination and subordination

Coordination joins clauses of equal weight (and, but, or). **Subordination** makes one clause depend on another (because, although, while, if), and the subordinate clause carries less emphasis.

Method — What the choice does

“The scheme costs more, but it works” gives both equal standing. “Although the scheme costs more, it works” demotes the cost. Same facts, different argument.

Method — Naming the relationship

Because: cause. **Although:** concession. **If:** condition. **While:** contrast or simultaneity. The conjunction is the writer's claim about how the ideas relate.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between coordination and subordination.

Solution 2.1

Method: Coordination and subordination

Worked steps

coordination joins clauses of equal weight **B1**; subordination makes one depend on the other, with less emphasis **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what subordination does to the two ideas joined.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

it demotes the subordinate idea **B1** and places the argumentative weight on the main clause **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Compare: “It is expensive, but it works” and “Although it is expensive, it works.”

- (a) State the difference in emphasis.
- (b) State which better serves an advocate of the scheme.

Solution 2.3

Method: What the choice does

Worked steps

(a) the second demotes the cost into a subordinate clause **B1**. (b) the second **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

“Although” signals

- A** cause
- B** concession
- C** condition
- D** addition

Solution 3.1

A cause

B concession 

C condition

D addition

Worked steps

B. it grants a point while placing the weight elsewhere.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A subordinate clause carries

- A** more emphasis than the main clause
- B** less emphasis than the main clause
- C** equal emphasis
- D** no meaning

Solution 3.2

Method: Coordination and subordination

A more emphasis than the main clause

B less emphasis than the main clause



C equal emphasis

D no meaning

Worked steps

B. subordination reduces emphasis.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Rewrite so the cost is demoted and the benefit emphasised: “The programme is slow to start. It reaches the people who need it most.”

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

joins the two ideas in one sentence **B1**; subordinates the cost with an appropriate conjunction **B2**; the benefit stands in the main clause **B1**.