51. **Subordinating Conjunctions Introducing Clauses of Contrast and Direct Contrast** (*although, while…*)

**Subordinating conjunctions** are words or phrases that introduce dependent clauses in a sentence.

**Clauses of Contrast** are dependent clauses used to describe conditions or events that are different than expected. The most common subordinating conjunctions that introduce clauses of contrast are: *although, though, and even though*.

**Clauses of Direct Contrast** are dependent clauses used to show how one person, place, or thing is different from another. The most common subordinating conjunctions that introduce clauses of direct contrast are: *while and whereas*.

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| *Although it is the richest country in the world, the U.S. has one of the worst healthcare systems.* (You would not expect the richest country in the world to have the worst healthcare system.) | **Subordinating conjunctions introducing clauses of contrast** – *although, even though, and though* – introduce conditions or events that are different from what is expected.  
  - All three have the same meaning, but *even though* is slightly stronger than the others.  
  - The clause that contains the subordinator of contrast can come at the beginning of the sentence or at the end.  
  - When it comes at the beginning, it should be followed by a comma. |
| *Even though the U.S. is the richest country in the world, it has one of the worst healthcare systems.* |                                                                         |
| *The U.S. has one of the worst healthcare systems though it is the richest country in the world.* |                                                                         |
| *Whereas Martin was acquitted by the jury, Jonathan was found guilty.*   | **Subordinating conjunctions introducing clauses of direct contrast** – *while and whereas* – show how one person, place, or thing is different from another.  
  - They mean the same, but *whereas* is more formal.  
  - The clause that contains the subordinator of direct contrast can come at the beginning of the sentence or at the end.  
  - When it comes at the beginning, it should be followed by a comma. |
| *While Martin was acquitted by the jury, Jonathan was found guilty.*     |                                                                         |
| *Martin was acquitted by the jury while Jonathan was found guilty.*      |                                                                         |

**Note:**

- A subordinating conjunction creates a dependent clause. A dependent clause is not a sentence; it is a fragment. It must be connected to an independent clause.
  
  **Incorrect:** *Although exercising is essential for good health. It is not effective without a balanced diet.*
  
  **Correct:** *Although exercising is essential for good health, it is not effective without a balanced diet.*

- A subordinating conjunction cannot be used with a coordinating conjunction.
  
  **Incorrect:** *While California has a lot of mountains, but Iowa is flat.*
  
  **Correct:** *While California has a lot of mountains, Iowa is flat.*