

## DLA: "The Room of When" Dependent Clause Words

Student Activity:

Welcome to the "Room of When," the "Room of After," and the "Room of Because." Are you wondering what I am talking about? Read the directions below and find out.

**Directions: When you do this assignment. Because the assignment will be so much fun. After you turn the page. How you can become a pro at recognizing dependent clauses. Before you finish this workshop.**

Begin your assignment NOW!

Wait! What????

I'm sure you are very confused now, right? Look at those sentences again. They start with a capital letter and they have a period, so they must be sentences, right?

Nope.

What does a sentence need in order to be a sentence? It needs a **subject** and a **verb**.

Let's look at one of the sentences in the directions and see if it has a subject and a verb.

**Because the assignment will be so much fun.**

It looks like it does have a subject and a verb, right?

"assignment will be"

"assignment" is the subject and "will be" is the verb.

But if someone walked into this very room and said, "Because the assignment will be so much fun," you would not feel satisfied. You would want to know what the effect of having so much fun would be, right?

Well, I have the answer! Because the assignment will be so much fun, it will hardly feel like work.

Did you notice what I just did? I attached the clause "Because the assignment will be so much fun" to another sentence "it will hardly feel like work."

Once again, if I came into the room and said, “Because the assignment will be so much fun, it will hardly feel like work,” you would feel satisfied even if you didn’t believe the speaker. This is because the speaker completed a full thought.

Here’s the deal: words called “Dependent Clause Words” are so powerful they make perfectly good sentences like “The assignment was so much fun,” and turn them into sad, pathetic dependent clauses: ex. “Because the assignment was so much fun.” This sentence can no longer stand alone. It is needy.

Don’t you want to know what the big, bad dependent clause words are?

Take a look!

Just SOME of the Dependent Clause Words:

After	If	Until (til)
Although	In order that	What
As	Now that	Whatever
As if	Once	When
As Long as	Since	Whenever
As soon as	So (or “so that”)	Where
As though	Than	Whereas
Because	Though	Whether
Before	Unless	While
Even though	How	Why

Are you trembling at the sight of so many powerful words? I thought so.

Let's change the subject for just a minute and talk about houses and rooms.

If you owned your own house, you would feel pretty independent, right? You would feel like you could stand on your own and take care of yourself. This is because you would have your own bathroom and kitchen. You could cook and clean all by yourself. You wouldn't have to run next door and ask your neighbor if you could use her toilet every time you needed to go. That would be bad. We can see that houses are independent.

Now answer this question: Would you feel independent if all you had was a room with no running water and no toilet? Probably not, right? You would be like a kid in his parent's house or, even worse, a prisoner in a jail cell.

Okay! Let's look at what we have decided:

House = Independent

Room = Dependent

Basically, when you put a Dependent Clause Word in front of a sentence, that sentence becomes dependent. (ex. "SINCE I pay attention to every detail" – this sentence is now dependent) It is no longer a sentence; it is a dependent clause. It is a room. This room needs to be attached to a house. The house is an independent sentence.

Let's think about this more. In fact, let's make some Dependent Rooms and then connect them to Independent Houses.

Follow the directions on the attached assignment. Get ready to start cutting and gluing!