

Prepositions or subordinating conjunctions?

Some words can act as more than one class, depending on how they are written in a sentence.

E.g. Love can be a noun or a verb.

I'm looking for love. I love my daughter.

Below are some tricky questions that highlight this. The words underlined are either **prepositions** or **subordinating conjunctions**. If a clause follows the word, it's likely to be a **subordinating conjunction**. If there's no verb then it's a preposition.

Tick one box in each row to show if the word **after** has been used as a **subordinating conjunction** or as a **preposition**.

**Remember rules about clauses
- they must have verbs!**

Sentence	<u>after</u> used as a subordinating conjunction	<u>after</u> used as a preposition
I ate desert <u>after</u> I had eaten my chips.		
No one is allowed in <u>after</u> 7 o'clock.		
He watched it <u>after</u> his dinner.		

Tick one box in each row to show if the word **until** has been used as a **subordinating conjunction** or as a **preposition**.

Sentence	<u>until</u> used as a subordinating conjunction	<u>until</u> used as a preposition
I walked <u>until</u> I found a river.		
The flowers bloomed <u>until</u> the cold autumn weather.		
His shift doesn't end <u>until</u> the evening.		

Tick one box in each row to show if the word **before** has been used as a **subordinating conjunction** or as a **preposition**.

Sentence	<u>before</u> used as a subordinating conjunction	<u>before</u> used as a preposition
Nobody can leave <u>before</u> Wednesday.		
It was taken <u>before</u> they saw.		
<u>Before</u> she could shout, he had fallen over it.		

Extension

Write 5 of your own pairs of sentences – one with *after/before/until* as a preposition, and the other as a preposition.

e.g: *After* your dinner, I will wash up the plates vs *After* you have finished dinner, I will wash up the plates.