

RUSSIAN TABLE

Russian subordinating conjunctions: Master sheet

In the following tables, the most important subordinating conjunctions are highlighted in blue.

Complement conjunctions

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
что (shto)	that / which / what	Я знаю, что ты хочешь найти новую работу. ya ZNAyu shto ty KHOchesh nayTEE NOvooyu raBOtoo. I know that you want to find a new job.	The most widely-used subordinating conjunction in Russian. It is mainly used after verbs of speech, thought, and feelings, e.g. Я думаю / понимаю / помню / вижу / сказал, что ... (ya DOOmayu / paniMAYu / POMnyu / VEEzhoo / skaZAL shto, "I think / understand / remember / see / said that ...")
чтобы (SHTOby)	that / to	Я хочу, чтобы ты нашёл новую работу. ya khaCHOO SHTOby ty naSHOL NOvooyu raBOtoo. I want you to find a new job. (lit: I want that you find a new job.)	Used instead of что if the verb in the main clause has the meaning of wish / request / expectation / desire / necessity / possibility, for example, after it is common after verbs хотеть (khaTYET, "to want"), просить (praSEET, "to ask"), настаивать (naSTAivat, "to insist"), сказать (skaZAT, "to tell"), приказать (prikaZAT, "to tell/order"), нужно (NOOZHna, "to need"), etc. Cannot be used to introduce facts. *can also be a conjunction of purpose
как (kak)	how	Я наблюдал, как он работает. ya nablyuDAL kak on raBOTayet. I was watching him working. (lit: I was watching how he was working.)	Used usually after verbs of perception: видеть (VEEdyet, "to see"), слышать (SLYshat, "to hear"), смотреть (smatRYET, "to look"), etc. *can also be a conjunction of comparison
ли (li)	if / whether	Я не знаю, действительно ли ты хочешь найти новую работу. ya nye ZNAyu diystVEEtilna li ty KHOchesh nayTEE NOvooyu raBOtoo. I don't know if you really want to find a new job (or not).	Used in reported questions, often with negation either in the main clause or in the dependent one. The structure of the dependent clause is normally "the word the reported question is asking about + ли + the rest."
будто (бы) (BOOta (by))	that	Ходят слухи, будто (бы) ты хочешь найти новую работу. KHODYat SLOOkhi BOOta (by) ty KHOchesh nayTEE NOvooyu raBOtoo. There are rumors that you want to find a new job.	Used after verbs of speech and thought, such as говорят (gavaRYAT, "it is said that"), кажется (KAZhitsa, "it seems"), etc., будто indicates lack of credibility of the reported words or ideas. *can also be a conjunction of comparison



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Subordinating conjunctions of reason

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
потому что (pataMOO shta)	because	Я купил новый телефон, потому что старый сломался. ya kooPEEL NOvyi tiliFON pataMOO shta STArYi slaMALSya. I bought a new phone because the old one got broken.	The most common conjunction of reason, stylistically neutral. Normally cannot be used at the beginning of a sentence, only AFTER the main clause, unless it's a response to the question "why?"
так как (TAK kak)	as / since / because	Я вынужден был купить новый телефон, так как старый сломался. ya VYnoozhdyen byl kooPEET NOvyi tiliFON TAK kak STArYi slaMALSya. I had to buy a new phone because the old one got broken.	More formal than потому что , but clauses of reason introduced by так как or поскольку can be placed before or after the main clause.
поскольку (paSKOLkoo)	since / given	Поскольку мой старый сломался, я вынужден был купить новый. paSKOLkoo moy STArYi tiliFON slaMALSya ya VYnoozhdyen byl kooPEET NOvyi. Since my old phone got broken, I had to buy a new one.	



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Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
Very formal / high register conjunctions of reason			
ОТТОГО ЧТО (ataVO shto)	because	Я наконец-то купил новый телефон благодаря тому, что старый сломался. ya nakaNYETS ta kooPEEL NOvyi tiliFON blagadaRYA taMOO shto STArYi slaMALsya.	These conjunctions are used in official documents, formal writing, scientific literature, and other high-register genres. May come before or after the main clause.
ВВИДУ ТОГО ЧТО (viDOO taVO shto)	taking into account that	I finally bought a new phone thanks to the fact that my old one got broken.	
благодаря тому, что (blagadaRYA taMOO shto)	thanks to the fact that	В связи с тем, что мой старый телефон сломался, я вынужден был приобрести новый. f sviZEE s tyem shto moy STArYi tiliFON slaMALsya ya VYnoozhdyen byl priabrisTEE NOvyi. Considering that my old phone got broken, I had to purchase a new one.	Note that COMMA is located in the middle of some of them, before что rather than before the entire conjunction. You would still need to separate the dependent clause from the main one with a comma though, if it comes first in a sentence.
вследствие того, что (FSLYETStvii taVO shto)	due to the fact that		
В СВЯЗИ С ТЕМ, ЧТО (f sviZEE s tyem shto)	whereas / considering that		
В СИЛУ ТОГО, ЧТО (f SEEloo taVO shto)	inasmuch as / by virtue of		





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Subordinating conjunctions of purpose

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
<p>чтобы (SHTOby)</p> <p>для того чтобы (dlya taVO SHTOby)</p> <p>чтоб (shtop)</p>	<p>to / in order to / so / so that</p>	<p>Мы взяли кредит, чтобы / для того чтобы / чтоб сын мог учиться. my VZYAli kriDEET SHTOby / dlya taVO SHTOby / shtop syn mok ooCHEEtsa. We took out a loan so that our son could study.</p>	<p>Чтобы is the most common conjunction of purpose, stylistically neutral. Для того чтобы is slightly more formal, while чтоб is a colloquial variant of чтобы.</p>
<p>лишь бы (LEESH by)</p> <p>только бы (TOLka by)</p>	<p>as long as / just so that / I just hope</p>	<p>Мы взяли кредит, лишь бы / только бы заплатить за обучение. my VZYAli kriDEET LEESH by / TOLka by zaplaTEET za abooCHEniye. We took out a loan in an effort to / just so that we could pay for the education.</p>	<p>Used when maximum effort might be needed to achieve the goal described in the dependent clause.</p>

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Subordinating conjunctions of result

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
ПОЭТОМУ (paEtamoo)	that's why / so	В комнате было темно, поэтому я не видел лица людей. f KOMNatye BYla timNO paEtamoo ya nye VEEdyel LEEtsa IyuDYEY. It was dark in the room, that's why I didn't see people's faces.	The most common word acting as conjunction of result (often considered an adverb or connective word in Russian grammar).
ПОТОМУ (pataMOO)	that's why / so	В комнате было темно, и потому я не видел лица людей. f KOMNatye BYla timNO pataMOO ya nye VEEdyel LEEtsa IyuDYEY. It was dark in the room, and so I didn't see people's faces.	Synonymous to поэтому, but less common. Often preceded with conjunctions и (i, "and"), а (a, "and").
ТАК ЧТО (tak shto)	therefore / and so / thus	В комнате было темно, так что я едва видел лица людей. f KOMNatye BYla timNO tak shto ya yidVA VEEdyel LEEtsa IyuDYEY. It was dark in the room so I could barely see people's faces.	A complex individual conjunction, that can be split into a correlative combination "adverb так / adjective такой in the main clause + conjunction что in the dependent clause of result." The second option adds an intensifier to the characteristic in the main clause.
ТАК / ТАКОЙ ..., ЧТО ... (tak shto)	so / such ... that ...	В комнате было так темно, что я едва видел лица людей. f KOMNatye BYla tak timNO shto ya yidVA VEEdyel LEEtsa IyuDYEY. It was so dark in the room that I could barely see people's faces.	



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Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
а (не) то (a ni TO)	or else	Выключи свет, а (не) то он нас увидит! VYklyuchi svyet a (ni) to on nas ooVEEdit! Turn the light off, or he'll see us!	These conjunctions have additional meaning of a threat, so they are used when the result in the dependent clause is undesirable.
в силу чего (f sEEloo chVO)	in virtue of / whereby	Погас свет, вследствие чего поиск выхода оказался ещё более затруднён. paGAS svyet FSLYEtvii chiVO POisk VYkhada akaZALSya yiSHCHO BOliye zatroodNYON.	Very formal, bookish conjunctions, rarely used.
вследствие чего (FSLYEtvii chiVO)	in conse- quence of which / which is why	The light went out which is why the search for the exit turned out to be even more difficult.	



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Subordinating conjunctions of time

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
когда (kagDA)	when	Позвони мне, когда придёшь домой. pazvaNEE mnye kagDA priDYOSH daMOY. Call me when you get home.	The most common time conjunction in Russian. Can introduce ANY type of time clauses (preceding, simultaneous with, or following the main clause events).
Conjunctions for preceding events (subordinate clause precedes main clause)			
как только (kak TOLka)	as soon as	Позвони мне, как только придёшь домой. pazvaNEE mnye kak TOLka priDYOSH daMOY. Call me as soon as you get home. Едва / Только / Чуть (только) он переступил порог, (как) раздался звонок. yidVA / TOLka / choot (NOLka) on piristooPEEL paROK razDALsya zvaNOK. He had hardly stepped inside, there was a ring.	Conjunctions как только , едва , только , and чуть (только) indicate that events in the time clause IMMEDIATELY precede the ones in the main clause. Как только is the most widely-used in this group. Едва , только , and чуть (только) tend to be used with past events and can be correlative (with the second part как used at the beginning of the main clause).
едва (... как ...) (yidVA) (kak)	hardly / no sooner		
только (... как ...) (TOLka) (kak)	hardly / no sooner		
чуть (только) (... как ...) (choot (TOLka)) (kak)	hardly / no sooner		



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Subordinating conjunctions of time

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
Conjunctions for preceding events (subordinate clause precedes main clause)			
пока не (paKA nye)	until / unless	Сиди дома, пока я тебе не позвоню. siDEE DOma paKA ya tiBYE nye pazvaNYU. Stay home until I call you.	The clause with пока не shows that the events in the main clause should stop once the ones in the time clause start.
после того как (poSlye taVO kak)	after	С тех пор как / После того как я пришёл домой, никаких звонков не было. s tyekh por kak / POSlye taVO kak ya priSHOL daMOY nikaKEEKH zvanKOF NYE bylo. Since / After I came home there have been / were no phone calls.	Conjunctions после того как and с тех пор как usually introduce time clauses with events remote in time from the ones in the main clause.
с тех пор как (s tyekh por kak)	since		
Conjunctions for simultaneous events (subordinate clause and main clause happen at the same time)			
пока (paKA)	while	Пока я шёл домой, мне позвонили три человека. paKA ya shol daMOY mnye pazvaNEEli tree chilaVYEka. While I was walking home, three people called me.	Used with imperfective verbs and only in positive dependent clauses (see negative пока не above).



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Subordinating conjunctions of time

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
Conjunctions for later events (subordinate clause follows the main clause)			
прежде чем (PRYEZHdye chem)	before / prior to		
до того как (da taVO kak)	before / prior to		
перед тем как (PYErit tyem kak)	before / prior to		

Прежде чем / До того как / Перед тем как
 ВЫЙТИ ИЗ ДОМА, Я ИМ ПОЗВОНИЛ.
 PRYEZHdye chem / da taVO kak / PYErit tyem
 kak VYIti iz DOma ya eem pazvaNEEL.
Before leaving the house, I called them.

May be used with infinitives or "subject + verb" clauses.
 Прежде чем is the most common out of the three.



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Subordinating conjunctions of condition

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
если (YESli)	if / since	Если хочешь, (то) я научу тебя плавать. YESli KHOchesh (to) ya naooCHOO tiBYA PLAvat. If you want, (then) I will teach you how to swim.	The most common among conjunctions of condition. Introduces a clause with a factual / real condition. Can be used as a coordinating conjunction with то (to, "then") at the beginning of the main clause. Often used with future tense, but can be used with other tenses, infinitives, and other grammar structures. Clauses beginning with если may come before, after, or in the middle of the main one.
раз (ras)	if / since	Ну раз ты не хочешь, (то) я не буду учить тебя плавать. noo ras ty nye KHOchesh (to) ya nye BOOdoo ooCHEET tiBYA PLAvat. Since you don't want to, (then) I won't teach you how to swim.	Very colloquial conjunction, synonymous in meaning and use to если.
если бы (YESli by) / если б (YESli p)	if	Если бы ты хотел, (то) давно бы научился плавать. YESli by ty khaTYEL (to) davNO by naooCHEELsya PLAvat. If you wanted, (then) you would have learned how to swim a long time ago.	Used with subjunctive mood, если бы and its more colloquial variant если б introduce an unreal, imaginary condition in the dependent clause, which makes the situation in the main clause unreal too. Бы might be separated from если. Can be used as a coordinating conjunction with то (to, "then") at the beginning of the main clause.

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Conjunctions of concession

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
ХОТЯ / ХОТЬ (khaTYA / khot)	although / even though	Они поехали в горы, хотя / хоть погода (и) была плохая. aNEE paYEkhali v GOry khaTYA / khot paGODa (i) byLA plaKHaya. They went to the mountains, even though the weather was bad.	The most common conjunctions of concession. The situation described in the concession clause is always factual, real. Хоть is colloquial, while хотя is stylistically neutral. They are often followed by the conjunction и in the dependent clause, and the main one, if it is in post-dependent clause position, often starts with particles / conjunctions всё-таки (FSYOtaki), всё же (FSYO zhe), тем не менее (tyem ni MYEniye) meaning "yet / nonetheless / anyway."
НЕСМОТЯ НА ТО ЧТО (nismatRYA na TO shta)	although / despite the fact that	Они поехали в горы, несмотря на то что погода была плохая. aNEE paYEkhali v GOry nismatRYA na TO shta paGODa byLA plaKHaya. They went to the mountains, despite the weather being bad.	Less common / more formal alternatives of хотя. Also introduce a clause describing a real situation conflicting with the one in the main clause. Невзирая на то что is rare and highly formal.
НЕВЗИРАЯ НА ТО ЧТО (nivziRAYa na TO shta)			
В ТО ВРЕМЯ КАК (f to RYEmya kak)	while / when / whereas	Они поехали в горы, в то время как / между тем как / тогда как большинство людей предпочитают отдыхать на море. aNEE paYEkhali v GOry f to RYEmya kak / MYEZhdoo tyem kak / tagDA kak balshinstVO lyuDYEY pritpachiTAYut odyKHAT na MOrye. They went to the mountains, whereas most people prefer to spend their vacations at the sea.	These conjunctions introduce clauses with a factual / real situation that is unusual / surprising to exist at the same time as the situation in the main clause. Тогда как and между тем как are more rare and higher in register than в то время как. NOTE that the conjunction в то время как can also function as the conjunction of time meaning "while."
МЕЖДУ ТЕМ КАК (MYEZhdoo tyem kak)			
ТОГДА КАК (tagDA kak)			



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Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
только (tagDA kak)	yet / but / mind you / though	Они поехали в горы, только / правда без гида. aNEE paYEkhali v GOrY TOLka / PRAVda byes GEEda. They went to the mountains, without a guide though .	Used to show that the situation in the main clause is somewhat depreciated / loses importance due to a factual undesirable situation described in the dependent clause.
правда (tagDA kak)			
пусть (poost)	even if / even though	Мы все равно хотим поехать в горы, пусть / пускай ненадолго. my fsyo ravNO khaTEEM paYEkhAt v GOrY poost / poosKAY ninaDOLga. We want to go to the mountains anyway, even if only for a short time.	Used to say that the situation in the main clause should take place regardless of the possible situation in the dependent clause. Often used with a particle всё равно (fsyo ravNO, "anyway") in the main clause. Пускай is more colloquial than neutral пусть.
пускай (poosKAY)			

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Subordinating conjunctions of comparison

Conjunction	Translation	Example	Comments
как (kak)	like / as if	Торт получился красивым, как на витрине, но не очень-то вкусным. tort palooCHEELsya kraSEEvym kak na vitREENye no nye Ochenta FKOOSnym. The cake turned out to be beautiful, like (the ones) in a shop window, but not particularly tasty.	The most common conjunctions of comparison. Mostly used with nouns / noun phrases, adjectives, and prepositional phrases meaning place. Shouldn't be confused with homonymous compliment conjunction.
(как) будто (бы) (kak BOOta by)	like / as if	Он украшал торт долго и тщательно, как будто это было произведение искусства. on ookraSHAL tort DOLga i TSHCHATilna kak BOOta Eta BYla praizviDYEniye isKOOstva. He was decorating the cake for a long time and very carefully, as if it was a piece of art.	These conjunctions are often used to create figurative or poetic comparison, to say that objects only look similar, but in reality may belong to very different categories.
словно (бы) (SLOVna by)			
точно (TOCHna)			
чем (chem)	than	Торт получился вкуснее, чем в прошлый раз. tort palooCHEELsya fkoosNYEye chem f PRO-SHlyi ras The cake turned out to be tastier than it was last time.	Used to point out not the similarity, like other conjunctions of comparison, but the difference between objects, people, characteristics, or actions. Must be used with comparative forms of adjectives or adverbs.

