

## Subordinating Conjunctions

**17f.** An *adverb clause* is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

An adverb clause is introduced by a *subordinating conjunction*, such as *after, although, before, if, since, so that, unless, or while*, that shows the relationship between the adverb clause and the word or words that the clause modifies.

**EXAMPLE** Would you like traveling slowly **so that you could see the world of Marco Polo?** [The subordinating conjunction *so that* relates the clause to the adjective *slowly*.]

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, underline the adverb clause once and underline the subordinating conjunction a second time.

**Example 1.** As long as people read about Marco Polo's adventures, they will be inspired to explore other countries and cultures.

1. Would the cities be larger or smaller than the present-day cities are?
2. Before I travel in China, I might try to learn a little about the language and customs.
3. Learning Chinese can be difficult unless you have a good teacher.
4. If we have time, we should walk along the top of the Great Wall.
5. Marco Polo described the market town of Kashgar, a crossroads now as it was then.
6. Wherever else I might go, I would definitely visit Kashgar's Sunday bazaar.
7. If the merchants allowed, I would sample the foods and teas.
8. Though the weather can be warm, Kazak men wear their traditional felt hats.
9. Older people in Yarkand get too little iodine from foods, as people did centuries ago.
10. Since its artisans produced fine fabrics, Khotan was an important stop along the Silk Road.
11. While Khotan was a center of commerce, it was also the gate through which Buddhism traveled to Northern China.
12. You, too, could travel the Silk Road as if you were Marco Polo.
13. Until they reached China, the Polo family had traveled mostly through Muslim regions.
14. You can learn much from people of various cultures, as long as you keep an open mind.
15. While historians aren't sure of the date, the Polos arrived at the Mongol court sometime in 1275.
16. Because they had met the Mongol emperor, Kublai Khan, on an earlier trip, they were welcome.
17. The Polos stayed in the emperor's domain for sixteen or seventeen years once they arrived.
18. Although little is known about his life, many myths about Marco Polo have sprung up.
19. Wherever he went, Polo must have paid close attention to detail.
20. He subsequently wrote a famous account of his travels so that Europeans might learn of Asia.