

Read and Discover

Venus **and** Mars are Earth's closest neighbors. Mars's atmosphere is more like Earth's than any other planet's, **but** Martian air is still very different from ours. **If** scientists could change the Martian atmosphere, people might be able to live on Mars.

Which boldfaced word links two proper nouns? _____

Which boldfaced word links two independent clauses? _____

Which boldfaced word begins a dependent clause? _____

Coordinating conjunctions (*and, but, or*) connect words or groups of words (including independent clauses) that are similar. **Subordinating conjunctions**, such as *although, because, since, if, and before*, show how one clause is related to another. A subordinating conjunction begins a dependent clause.

See Handbook Section 21

Part 1

Underline each coordinating conjunction. Circle each subordinating conjunction.

1. Mars is about half the size of Earth and twice the size of our moon.
2. Since Mars rotates once about every 24 hours, a day on Mars is the same length as Earth's.
3. Because Mars's orbit takes 687 days, the Martian year is almost twice as long as Earth's.
4. Although their atmospheres differ, like Earth, Mars has seasonal changes.
5. Mars has weaker gravity, a thinner atmosphere, and colder temperatures than Earth.
6. If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh about 38 pounds on Mars.
7. Because Mars's atmosphere is extremely thin, it cannot hold heat very well.
8. There is not enough oxygen for people to breathe, and the air is often incredibly cold.
9. Daytime temperatures on Mars are sometimes similar to those on Earth, but nighttime temperatures plunge to minus 220° F.
10. Although Mars has little water today, scientists believe it once had lakes and rivers.
11. Apparently there is some water trapped in polar ice caps on Mars, and there are deep canyons that were probably carved by water.