

Multiple Subordinate Prepositional

They will supply new equipment for depots as the routes are established.
They will supply new equipment as new depots for buses are established.
We must wait until the matter before the court is heard.
He waited until a week after the river crested.

We have sentences with two Subordinate Prepositionals, only one of which becomes a subordinate conjunction for the following clause. We need some idea of the sense of the sentence to decide which one is the subordinate conjunction, which the preposition.

...for depots are established
...as the routes are established

We can compare the likelihood of

They will supply new equipment for depots – strong
(depots as the routes) are established – weak
for depots are established - medium
as the routes are established – strong

To do this, we need modelling on the meaning of the subordinate conjunctions

For
As
Before
Until
After

Most have a time meaning

He spoke as John was leaving - (ambiguous – “as” can mean “because”)
He spoke after John left.

The meaning of “as” can be changed to “because” by addition of an adverb.

They will supply new equipment for depots as the routes are already established.

For

We must wait for reinforcements [to arrive]. – (a time relation requiring a relation)

We must wait for the going down of the sun.

We waited for six weeks.

He bought food for the dog [to eat].

He bought paint for the kitchen [to be used in the kitchen]

He bought paint for ten dollars [costing ten dollars]

He bought poison for termites [to eat, to be poisoned by]

He bought a car for John [to have]

He posed for the camera [to take a picture]

The rotor for the helicopter [to be used on, is a component of]

Meanings

Relation for something to happen

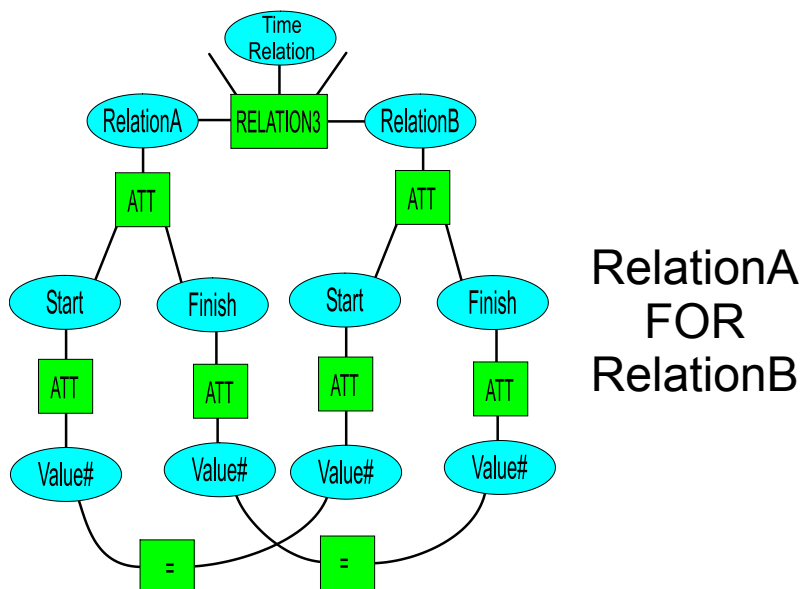
Relation for something [to do/have/be something] – subject of implied relation

Relation for something [to be done to] – needn't be subject

Relation for time

Relation for amount of money

For many uses of “for”, we have to surmise a relation



As

“As” has many shades of meaning, making it difficult to generate a program to choose among the alternatives.

We can divide AS into

AS_Collocation
AS_Preposition
AS_Subordinate

AS_Collocation follows a verb with which it collocates, such as ToConfigure – “It was configured as a base station.” The collocation implies we already know the orientation of the connection to the relation. Finding the possibility of a collocation allows us to see a link back to a relation, giving us a better idea of the possible structure.

We can further divide the latter two into

AS_Preposition

AS_Prep_ISP Implied SubjectP ronoun

He is responsible as [he is] the owner of the vessel.

AS_Prep_Because

As (someone is) your manager, he is responsible (because)

AS_Prep_ITSWA In The Same Way As

He is dressed [in the same way] as a clown
He works [in the same way] as a pastry cook

AS_Prep_AAMO As A Means Of

He planted trees as [a means of doing] penance for his crimes.

AS_Prep_AtBeing

His term as governor was brief.

AS_Prep_Epoch

He suffered from asthma as a child.

The more complex prepositions are responsible for setting up the appropriate relation structure.

If followed by a non-adjectival past participle, the “as” is a subordinate conjunction – “the meeting went ahead as [it was] arranged”.

AS_Subordinate

AS_Subordinate_When

AS_Subordinate_Because

AS_Subordinate_ITSWA (In The Same Way As)

The horn sounded as the ship left port (when – same tenses or because – that is why they sounded the horn)

He stayed inside as it was raining – (because or when - ambiguous)

He stayed inside, as it was raining – (because – the comma removes when)

As John is your manager, he is responsible... (because – adjectival state)

The grass was wet as it had rained last night - (because –not time because of had)

The grass is wet as it rained last night - (because –not time because of different tenses)

He is going now as it will be raining tomorrow - (because –not time because of different tenses)

Feet are to men as hooves are to horses. (ITSWA)

It is six miles as the crow flies (ITSWA)

He cried as a child might. (ITSWA)

The bird flew away as night fell.

Is there a deliberate ambiguity with “as” – it could be the same time or the clause on the right could be the cause. Because and When do not have this ambiguity. We can eliminate the ambiguity where possible.

Before

He washed before breakfast - timepoint

He served twelve years before the mast – in front of, on a ship

He was brought before a judge – to be considered by

RelationA before RelationB – timepoint

