

As

“As” has many shades of meaning, making it difficult to decide on a single meaning. It may be easier to consider it as a relation with multiple meanings.

We can divide “as” into

AS_Collocation
AS_Preposition
AS_Subordinate

AS_Collocation follows a verb (or relation noun) with which it collocates, such as ToConfigure –

It was configured in six weeks as a base station.
Its configuration as a base station was not a success.

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 will look for a collocation for any collocated preposition, even though it may also be a subordinate conjunction.

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_AAMOD As A Means Of Doing

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

AS_Prep_AsBeing

His term as governor was brief.
He saw it as a way out.

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 probably 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 will eliminate the ambiguity where possible.