Using and Punctuating Subordinating Conjunctions

When you add a subordinating conjunction to a word group, the words can no longer stand alone as an independent sentence. They are no longer a complete thought. If you use a subordinating conjunction at the beginning of a phrase, you must put a comma after that phrase. If you use a subordinating conjunction in the middle of a sentence, you do not need a comma:

When you come, please bring the snake.

Please bring the snake *when* you come.

Here is a list of SOME subordinating conjunctions:

after	although	as	because
before	by the time	even if	even though
every time	if	in case	now that
once	only if	since	though
unless	until	when	whenever
whereas	whether or not	while	

Write a logical subordinating conjunction in each slot. Punctuate appropriately when necessary.

1. The bank was closed down by federal regulators _____ it lost more money than it earned.

2. _____Paula wants to look mysterious she wears dark sunglasses and a scarf.

3. _____ the restaurant was closing in fifteen minutes customers sipped their coffee slowly and continued to talk.

4. The waiter was instructed not to serve any food _____the guests of honor arrived.

5. _____anyone else could answer it Carl rushed to the phone.

6. _____apples were on sale we decided to make an apple pie for dessert.

7. Lamont listens to books on tape _____he drives to work.

8. _____she finished her exam Joanne could relax.

Punctuate the following correctly:

1. Because Jane is always eating she is never hungry.
2. Jane is never hungry because she is always eating.
3. Since Thomas came to town things have not been the same.
4. Things have not been the same since Thomas came to town.
5. Until you fix the bathtub no one can take a bath.
6. No one can take a bath until you fix the bathtub.
7. Every time Samson went to the barbershop poor Delilah would whine.
8. I will eat the fried worms only if you add lots of salt.
9. By the time I get to Phoenix she'll be crying.
10. Although I do so much enjoy school I will be happy for summer to come.
11. Oh boy will you get it when your father gets home!
12. After the fall of Rome all was chaos.
13. Unicorns are my favorite animal because they have a horn that can gore people.
14. If I have to put one more comma in a sentence I'll go nuts!