



Conjunctions

What are conjunctions?

Conjunctions connect words or phrases to each other. There are four kinds of conjunctions: coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and conjunctive adverbs.

Coordinating Conjunctions

- The coordinating conjunctions are: **and, but, for, so, yet, or, nor**

Note: You can remember them with the acronym **FANBOYS**

F (for) **A** (and) **N** (nor) **B** (but) **O** (or) **Y** (yet) **S** (so)

- Coordinating conjunctions must connect the same parts of speech—two or more nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions, phrases, or clauses.

Examples:

- A strong **but** warm breeze blew across the desert. (two adjectives: strong and warm)
- Please print **or** type the information on the application form. (to verbs: print and type)
- Her arguments were easy to ridicule **yet** hard to refute. (two phrases of equal importance: “easy to ridicule” and “hard to refute”)

Correlative Conjunctions

- The correlative conjunctions come in pairs. They are: **both...and, just as...so, not only...but also, either...or, neither...nor, whether...or**
- Correlative conjunctions join equal elements (parts of speech or phrases)

Examples:

- **Both** Bechtel **and** Kaiser submitted bids on the project. (two proper nouns: Bechtel and Kaiser)
- Maisha **not only** sent a card **but also** visited me in the hospital. (two action phrases: “sent a card” and “visited me”)

Subordinating Conjunctions

- Subordinating conjunctions introduce adverb clauses and signal the relationship between the adverb clause and another clause, usually an independent clause. An adverb clause answers the question how, when, or why. An independent clause is a group of words that can stand on its own as a complete sentence.

Example: “I jumped *when* the fire alarm went off.”

In this sentence, the subordinating conjunction *when* signals a time relationship, letting us know that one event (the fire alarm going off) caused the other (the jumping).

- The subordinating conjunctions are: **after, although, as, as if, because, before, if, in order that, once, since, so that, than, though, unless, until, when, where, while**

Examples:

- *Once* sales improve, the company will be able to pay its bills.
- My grandmother began traveling *after* she sold her home.

Conjunctive Adverbs

- Conjunctive adverbs connect two sentences. They explain how the first sentence relates to the second.
- The conjunctive adverbs are: **also, however, moreover, similarly, anyway, incidentally, namely, still, besides, indeed, nevertheless, then, certainly, instead, next, therefore, finally, likewise, now, thus, furthermore, meanwhile, otherwise, undoubtedly**
- Conjunctive adverbs can be moved to different positions in a clause
- Independent clauses connected by a conjunctive adverb must be separated by a semicolon or a period, not just a comma.

Examples:

- The cider tasted bitter; *however*, each of us drank a tall glass of it.
- The cider tasted bitter; each of us, *however*, drank a tall glass of it.
- The cider tasted bitter. Each of us drank a tall glass of it, *however*.
- The cider tasted bitter. *However*, each of us drank a tall glass of it.

