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Conjunctions are essential components of the English language, playing a pivotal role in connecting words, phrases, and clauses to create coherent and meaningful sentences.Table of contentsA conjunction is a part of speech that connects words, phrases, clauses, or sentences, establishing relationships between different parts of a sentence. Conjunctions enable the smooth flow of ideas, making communication clearer and more efficient.Connecting Words: Link individual words of the same part of speech.Connecting Phrases: Join groups of words functioning as a single unit.Connecting Clauses: Bind independent or dependent clauses to form complex sentences.Connecting Sentences: Combine separate sentences to create compound or complex structures.She likes tea and coffee.He arrived before the meeting started.I wanted to go, but I was too tired.It was raining. Therefore, we stayed indoors.Conjunctions can be categorized based on their function and the relationship they establish between the connected elements. The primary types include:Coordinating conjunctions connect words, phrases, or independent clauses of equal grammatical rank.Common Coordinating Conjunctions (FANBOYS):Usage Rules:Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction when it connects two independent clauses.Do not use a comma when connecting single words or phrases.Examples:She bought apples and oranges.He worked hard, and he succeeded.I wanted to attend the concert, but I couldn’t get tickets.It was late, so we decided to go home.Subordinating conjunctions connect an independent clause with a dependent (subordinate) clause, establishing a relationship of dependence.Common Subordinating Conjunctions:Time: after, before, when, while, since, untilCause/Effect: because, since, asCondition: if, unless, provided thatContrast: although, though, even though, whereasPurpose: so thatUsage Rules:The dependent clause can precede or follow the independent clause.When the dependent clause comes first, use a comma after it.Examples:After she finished her homework, she went out to play.He stayed home because he was feeling sick.If it rains, the picnic will be canceled.Although it was raining, they continued hiking.She whispered so that no one could hear her.Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together to join equal grammatical elements.Common Correlative Conjunctions:either…orneither…norboth…andnot only…but alsowhether…orjust as…soUsage Rules:Ensure parallel structure: the elements joined by correlative conjunctions should be grammatically similar.Place the correlative conjunctions before the elements they connect.Examples:Either you can come with us, or you can stay home.Neither the manager nor the employees were available.Both the teacher and the students enjoyed the event.She is not only intelligent but also hardworking.Whether it rains or shines, the event will proceed.Just as he arrived, so did she.Conjunctive adverbs act as conjunctions to connect independent clauses, often indicating a relationship such as cause and effect, contrast, or sequence.Common Conjunctive Adverbs:howeverthereforemoreoverconsequentlyneverthelessfurthermorethusmeanwhilehencesimilarlyUsage Rules:Use a semicolon before the conjunctive adverb and a comma after it when connecting two independent clauses.Alternatively, start a new sentence with the conjunctive adverb followed by a comma.Examples:She didn’t see the sign; therefore, she missed the turn.It was raining; however, they went for a walk.He studied hard; consequently, he passed the exam.The project was challenging; nevertheless, they completed it on time.Understanding the rules governing the use of conjunctions ensures clarity and grammatical correctness in your writing and speech.1. Maintain Parallel StructureWhen using conjunctions to join elements, ensure that the connected elements are grammatically parallel.Correct:She likes reading, writing, and painting.Incorrect:She likes to read, writing, and painting.When connecting two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction, place a comma before the conjunction.Correct:I wanted to go for a walk, but it started to rain.Incorrect:I wanted to go for a walk but it started to rain.When using conjunctive adverbs to connect independent clauses, use a semicolon before the conjunctive adverb and a comma after it.Correct:She was tired; therefore, she went to bed early.Incorrect:She was tired, therefore she went to bed early.Select conjunctions that accurately reflect the relationship you intend to convey, such as cause, contrast, condition, or addition.Examples:Cause: because, sinceContrast: although, whereasCondition: if, unlessAddition: and, moreoverWhen using correlative conjunctions, ensure that both parts of the pair are present and correctly positioned.Correct:Either you can join us, or you can stay home.Incorrect:Either you can join us, stay home.While conjunctions are useful for connecting ideas, overusing them can lead to run-on sentences or convoluted structures. Use them judiciously to maintain clarity.Even with a solid understanding of conjunctions, common errors can occur. Being aware of these pitfalls helps in avoiding them.Using a comma to join two independent clauses without an appropriate conjunction.Mistake:She loves to dance, she goes to classes every week.Correction:She loves to dance, and she goes to classes every week.She loves to dance; she goes to classes every week.Selecting a conjunction that does not accurately represent the intended relationship.Mistake:I went to the store because I wanted to buy milk, but I forgot my wallet.Correction:I went to the store because I wanted to buy milk, but I forgot my wallet. (This sentence is correct; an example of incorrect choice:)I went to the store and I wanted to buy milk, but I forgot my wallet. (Here, “and” doesn’t show the causal relationship.)Starting a sentence with a subordinating conjunction but not completing the sentence with an independent clause.Mistake:Correction:Although she was tired, she continued working.Not maintaining parallel structure or omitting one part of the pair.Mistake:She is not only talented but also hardworking.Correction:She is not only talented but also hardworking.Relying too heavily on conjunctive adverbs can make writing seem stiff or overly formal.Example of Overuse:She was late; therefore, she missed the meeting. Moreover, she didn’t apologize. Consequently, her boss was upset.Balanced Approach:She was late and missed the meeting, which upset her boss.Choose the appropriate conjunction to complete each sentence.a) She wanted to go for a walk, ___ it was raining.Answer: butb) You can have tea ___ coffee.Answer: orc) He didn’t study, ___ he failed the exam.Answer: sod) ___ she was tired, she finished her work.Answer: Althoughe) She is not only intelligent ___ also very creative.Answer: butUnderline the conjunctions in the following sentences and identify their type.a) I would like to travel to Japan and Korea.b) Because it was late, we decided to go home.c) She is either going to the party or staying home.d) He didn’t study; therefore, he failed the test.therefore (Conjunctive Adverb)e) You can come with us, but you have to hurry.Rewrite the following sentences, correcting any conjunction errors.a) She enjoys reading, she doesn’t like writing.Correction:She enjoys reading, but she doesn’t like writing.She enjoys reading; she doesn’t like writing.b) I will go to the store because I need milk, and bread.Correction:I will go to the store because I need milk and bread.c) Although he was tired, but he continued working.Correction:Remove either “although” or “but”:Although he was tired, he continued working.He was tired, but he continued working.d) She likes both cats or dogs.Correction:She likes both cats and dogs.e) If you study hard, you will pass the exam therefore.Correction:If you study hard, you will pass the exam, therefore.If you study hard, you will pass the exam.Use an appropriate conjunction to combine the following pairs of sentences.a) It was raining. We went for a walk.Possible Answers:But: It was raining, but we went for a walk.Although: Although it was raining, we went for a walk.b) She didn’t see the sign. She missed the turn.Possible Answers:She didn’t see the sign, so she missed the turn.She missed the turn because she didn’t see the sign.c) He is smart. He doesn’t study.Possible Answers:He is smart, yet he doesn’t study.He is smart but he doesn’t study.d) They can watch a movie. They can go out for dinner.Possible Answer:They can watch a movie or they can go out for dinner.e) The project was difficult. They completed it on time.Possible Answer:Although the project was difficult, they completed it on time.The project was difficult, but they completed it on time. Conjunctions are words that join phrases, clauses, or words within a sentence, helping us to communicate interconnected and complex things coherently. There are three main types of conjunctions: coordinating, correlative, and subordinating. Coordinating conjunctions, often represented by the acronym FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so), connect words, phrases, or independent clauses of equal grammatical importance in a sentence. Correlative conjunctions operate in pairs—such as either/or and neither/nor—framing grammatically equivalent elements in order to connect clauses that together form a complete thought. Subordinating conjunctions, including although, because, that, and while, connect a dependent clause to the independent clause of a sentence, indicating a specific logical relationship between the two. Here, we’ll discuss the different types of conjunctions and demonstrate with examples how to use them correctly. The AI writing assistant for anyone with work to do Table of contents Definition of a conjunction How do conjunctions work? Coordinating conjunctions Correlative conjunctions Subordinating conjunctions Conjunctive adverbs Starting a sentence with a conjunction List of common conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs Conjunctions FAQs Definition of a conjunction A conjunction is a word that links other words, phrases, or clauses together. There are three main types of conjunctions: coordinating, correlative, and subordinating. How do conjunctions work? Conjunctions create connections that identify the logical relationships between ideas or sentence elements. These relationships may be used to indicate an addition (as with and), create contrast (but, yet, although), establish cause and effect (because), or introduce a condition (unless), among other things. Why conjunctions matter in writing Conjunctions allow you to put together cohesive ideas and incorporate variety in your sentence structures so that you can balance longer, more involved sentences with concise ones. Knowing how to use conjunctions properly enhances the clarity of your writing as well as its overall rhythm and tone. Without conjunctions, you’d be forced to express every complex idea in a series of short, simplistic sentences: I like cooking. I like eating. I don’t like washing dishes afterward. With conjunctions, sentences can be more fluid and sophisticated, and the logical connections between them can be clearly expressed: I like cooking and eating, but I don’t like washing dishes afterward. Here are some further examples, which present the same ideas, first without conjunctions and then with them: Without conjunctions: I am a member of that gym. I can reserve a spot at fitness classes ahead of time. If I were not a member, I would have to arrive early to be sure I could attend. I would have to wait in line for the door to open to be sure I could attend. With conjunctions: Because I am a member of that gym, I can reserve a spot at fitness classes ahead of time, but otherwise I would have to both arrive early and wait in line for the door to open in order to be sure I could attend. Not only is the example without conjunctions distractingly choppy, the logical relationships between its elements are unclear. Want to make sure you’re using conjunctions correctly in your writing? Grammarly can check your spelling and save you from grammar and punctuation mistakes. It even proofreads your text, so your work is extra polished wherever you write.  Coordinating conjunctions Coordinating conjunctions allow you to join words, phrases, and clauses of equal grammatical rank in a sentence. The most common coordinating conjunctions are for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so; you can remember them with the acronym FANBOYS. In the following sentence, the coordinating conjunction or is connecting two nouns: pizza and salad: I’d like pizza or a salad for lunch. When the elements that a coordinating conjunction joins are two independent clauses, a comma is used before the conjunction: She enjoys painting, and he loves playing the guitar. It’s important to make sure that the words or phrases joined by coordinating conjunctions are parallel (have the same structure): I work quickly and careful. I work quickly and carefully. It’s also important not to make the common error of creating a run-on sentence, which is a compound sentence in which two independent clauses are incorrectly separated by just a comma: Incorrect: I work quickly, I check my work carefully. Run-on sentences can be corrected by either adding a coordinating conjunction or changing the comma to a semicolon or period: I work quickly, but I check my work carefully. I work quickly; I check my work carefully. I work quickly. I check my work carefully. Examples of coordinating conjunctions in sentences Here are some more examples of coordinating conjunctions in sentences: They’d never traveled to the coast, for the journey was long and difficult. Please buy apples and peaches at the market. The child doesn’t want to get up, nor does she have an appetite. Jesse didn’t have much money, but they got by. I haven’t seen Malik or Noemi in the longest time. Sophie is clearly exhausted, yet she insists on dancing till dawn. Correlative conjunctions Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together by framing and connecting grammatically identical sentence elements. Some common examples are both/and, either/or, neither/nor, and not only / but also. It’s important to pair correlative conjunctions correctly; avoid common errors like I take both pilates as well as swimming at the YMCA (it should be I take both pilates and swimming at the YMCA). Examples of correlative conjunctions in sentences I am finished with both my English essay and my history essay. The cats’ food needs to move either out of the kitchen or onto a higher surface that the dog can’t reach. Neither Shel’s mother nor her father has ever been to visit her in Amsterdam. Not only am I finished studying for English, but I’m also finished writing my history essay. Subordinating conjunctions Subordinating conjunctions join dependent clauses to the independent clauses of sentences, signaling cause and effect, comparison, contrast, time, or some other kind of relationship between the clauses. Common subordinating conjunctions include because, since, as, although, though, until, while, and whereas. They introduce a dependent clause that depends on the sentence’s independent clause to make sense: I can stay out until the clock strikes twelve. Here, the presence of the subordinating conjunction until makes until the clock strikes twelve a dependent clause; it is dependent on the independent clause (I can stay out) for its meaning, and it in turn provides clarifying information about the independent clause. A subordinating conjunction doesn’t need to go between the two clauses the way it does in the above examples. It must introduce the dependent clause, but the dependent clause can come before the independent clause. Before he leaves, make sure his room is clean. If the dependent clause comes first, use a comma before the independent clause. I drank a glass of water because I was thirsty. Because I was thirsty, I drank a glass of water. That as a subordinating conjunction The word that, which is usually a demonstrative pronoun or a relative pronoun, sometimes acts as a subordinating conjunction by introducing a dependent clause after certain kinds of verbs, adjectives, and nouns in a sentence’s independent clause. That clauses with verbs Dependent clauses beginning with that often follow verbs that express acts of statement (such as say, report, indicate, and so on) or acts of thought (think, know, believe, hope, imagine, and so on): The professor said that we would all get our grades over break. I imagine that she and I will talk this over when we see each other next. That clauses with adjectives Another kind of dependent clause introduced by that often follows an independent clause with a form of to be and an adjective having to do with a feeling or opinion. These adjectives include sure, certain, excited, sorry, and others: He was certain that he had locked the door when he left. I am excited that we are taking the martial arts class together. That clauses with nouns Independent clauses with certain nouns that name opinions, feelings, or statements used as direct objects, indirect objects, or objects of prepositions are also often followed by dependent clauses beginning with that. Such nouns include belief, fact, hope, idea, and possibility: I am holding on to the hope that the art center will raise the funds to stay open. She shared the possibility that the café would start staying open later on weekends. Omitting that That as a subordinating conjunction in any of the above circumstances can be omitted if the meaning remains clear: I imagine she and I will talk this over when we see each other next. He was certain he had locked the door when he left. Examples of subordinating conjunctions in sentences They continued to drive slowly although it had stopped raining. She often goes to the cinema alone since she doesn’t enjoy talking after movies. Whereas we usually go out for New Year’s Eve, this year we decided to celebrate at home. He doesn’t like to travel by bus unless it’s for a very short distance. Conjunctive adverbs A conjunctive adverb is an adverb that does the job of a conjunction: It connects two clauses or ideas by modifying one of them. Functionally, it can link two independent clauses in one sentence using a semicolon between the clauses and, usually, a comma after the conjunctive adverb. It can also link the ideas in two sentences or link ideas within an independent clause. Conjunctive adverbs often express ideas of addition (also, besides, furthermore), cause and effect (accordingly, consequently, therefore), clarification (namely, that is), comparison (likewise, similarly), contrast (however, regardless, still), emphasis (certainly, indeed), or time (meanwhile, recently, beforehand). Examples of conjunctive adverbs in sentences I have lived in this town since I was seven; also, I still live in the house I grew up in. She is an avid gardener. That is, she grows much of the food for her household. He believed in responsible consumption and lived accordingly. Raven works a lot of hours at their day job; nevertheless, they always find time for their artwork. Starting a sentence with a conjunction Many of us were taught in school that it’s a mistake to begin a sentence with a conjunction, but that rule is a myth. As mentioned above, a subordinating conjunction can begin a sentence if the dependent clause comes before the independent clause. It’s also correct to begin a sentence with a coordinating conjunction. Often, it’s a good way to add emphasis. Beginning too many sentences with conjunctions will cause the device to lose its force, however, so use this technique sparingly. Have a safe trip. And don’t forget to call when you get home. Gertie flung open the door. But there was no one on the other side. List of common conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs Here’s a table showing common coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and conjunctive adverbs. Conjunctions are often small words, but they do a big job, allowing you to make smooth and elegant logical connections while varying the lengths and structures of your sentences. Mastering the different types of conjunctions and how to use them correctly will advance the sophistication and clarity of your writing immeasurably. Conjunctions FAQs What are the three main types of conjunctions? Coordinating conjunctions allow you to join words, phrases, and clauses of equal grammatical rank in a sentence. The most common coordinating conjunctions are for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so. Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together. Some examples are both/and, either/or, and neither/nor. Subordinating conjunctions signal cause and effect, a contrast, or some other kind of relationship between the clauses. Common subordinating conjunctions are because, since, as, and although. Can you start a sentence with a conjunction? Starting a sentence with a coordinating conjunction like and, but, or so is grammatically acceptable, especially in conversational or informal writing. However, be mindful of not starting too many sentences with coordinating conjunctions, as this can make the writing feel repetitive. What is the difference between a conjunction and a conjunctive adverb? A conjunctive adverb is similar to a coordinating conjunction in that it links sentences, independent clauses, or other grammatically equal elements. It is different in that it does this while still functioning as an adverb, turning the clause that it introduces into an adverbial modifier of the previous clause. Your writing, at its best.Works on all your favorite websitesImprove your writing with a Grammarly Free accountWrite without mistakesGenerate text with AI promptsLearn your writing toneGet Grammarly It’s freeRelated Articles home▸sitemap▸conjunctions Conjunctions join words, phrases, or clauses. "And," "but," and "or" are the three most common conjunctions, but there are many others. If there were no conjunctions, we would be forced to use short sentences: I like cake. I like pies. I do not like celery. Luckily for us, we do have conjunctions, which means we can write elegant, complex sentences and avoid that repetition. I like cake and pies but not celery. As we will cover later, there are three types of conjunction, but fundamentally they all do the same thing: conjunctions are joiners. Jack and Jill went up the hill. (The conjunction "and" joins the words "Jack" and "Jill.") Toby is a highly intelligent but sometimes quiet boy. (The conjunction "but" joins the phrases "highly intelligent" and "sometimes quiet.") You can prepare the salad, or you can clean the floor. (The conjunction "or" joins the clauses "You can prepare the salad" and "you can clean the floor.") When used correctly, conjunctions always join like with like (i.e., they join words of the same kind). Table of Contents Types of Conjunction with Examples More Examples of Conjunctions Real-Life Examples of Coordinating Conjunctions Real-Life Examples of Subordinating Conjunctions Real-Life Examples of Correlative Conjunctions Why Coordinating Conjunctions Are Important Why Subordinating Conjunctions Are Important Why Correlative Conjunctions Are Important Video Lesson Test Time! "And," "but," and "or" are classified as coordinating conjunctions. However, this is just one type of conjunction. There are three types of conjunction: Coordinating conjunctions join like with like. For example, they join a noun with another noun or an adjective with another adjective. The most common ones are "and," "but," and "or." There are seven in total: "for," "and," "nor," "but," "or," "yet," and "so." (You can remember them using the mnemonic F.A.N.B.O.Y.S.) In these examples, the coordinating conjunctions are shaded, and the words being joined are in bold: You can hear the monkeys and parrots in the forest. (The conjunction joins two nouns.) Can you sing or dance? (The conjunction joins two verbs.) The comment was blunt but effective. (The conjunction joins two adjectives.) Familiarity breeds contempt and children. (The conjunction joins two nouns.) Subordinating conjunctions join subordinate clauses to main clauses. Common examples are "although," "because," "if," "since," "unless," "until," and "while." In these examples, the subordinating conjunctions are highlighted, and the subordinate clauses are in bold. Notice that the subordinating conjunctions are part of the subordinate clause. It is funny because it is true. We'll stay in the car until the hail stops. I'm leaving if Lee starts telling us about that bass again. When the bell rings, I stop hearing the crowd. Correlative conjunctions are used in pairs to join alternatives or equal elements. The most common pairs are "either/or," "neither/nor," and "not only/but also." In these examples, the correlative conjunctions are shaded, and the words being joined are in bold: I can bake either muffins or teacakes. (The conjunction joins two nouns.) Jack could neither laugh nor cry. (The conjunction joins two verbs.) She was not only smart but also beautiful. (The conjunction joins two adjectives.) Make sure your conjunctions join the same type of word. When conjunctions join the same type of word, the structure is described as "parallel." I can either bake muffins or teacakes. (Here, the conjunction sits before a verb ("bake") and a noun ("teacakes"). Therefore, the structure is non-parallel. This is a mistake. We will discuss parallel structures in more detail later in the lesson.) Select the Type of Conjunction It's your go! Select whether the conjunction in bold is a coordinating conjunction, a subordinating conjunction, or a correlative conjunction. Here are some real-life examples of coordinating conjunctions (shaded): If a man should challenge me to a duel, I would take him kindly and forgivingly by the hand and lead him to a quiet place to kill him. (Writer Mark Twain) (Here, the first conjunction joins two adverbs ("kindly and forgivingly"). The second joins two verbs ("take and lead").) The best solutions are often simple yet unexpected. (Rock musician Julian Casablancas) He is richest who is content with the least, for content is the wealth of nature. (Greek philosopher Socrates) Read more about coordinating conjunctions. The role of the subordinating conjunction and subordinate clause is to establish a time, a place, a reason, a condition or a concession for the main clause. Below are some real-life examples of subordinating conjunctions. (In these examples, the subordinating conjunctions are highlighted and the subordinate clauses are in bold.) I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book. (Comedian Groucho Marx) (The subordinate clause establishes a time for the main clause.) Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity. (Greek physician Hippocrates) (The subordinate clause establishes a place for the main clause.) People are more violently opposed to fur than leather because it's safer to harass rich women than motorcycle gangs. (The subordinate clause establishes a reason for the main clause.) Man is ready to die for an idea, provided that idea is not quite clear to him. (Author Paul Eldridge) (The subordinate clause establishes a condition for the main clause.) I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught. (Sir Winston Churchill) (The subordinate clause establishes a concession for the main clause.) When a sentence has a main clause (also called an independent clause) and at least one subordinate clause (also called a dependent clause), it is known as a complex sentence. Read more about subordinating conjunctions. Flowers are restful to look at. They have neither emotions nor conflicts. (Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud) Education is not only the filling of a pail but also the lighting of a fire. (Irish poet William Butler Yeats) It is not death but dying which is terrible. (Author Henry Fielding) Read more about correlative conjunctions. Try our drag and drop test on conjunctions. Take a find-the-word test on conjunctions. There are two common questions related to coordinating conjunctions: Mostly no but sometimes yes. Unfortunately, the answer to this question isn't short. Here is a summary of the rules: When "and" (or any coordinating conjunction) joins two items, don't use a comma. Lee has eaten all the cheese and biscuits. The whole world agrees on this point. So far so good. However, if you think it helps your reader, you can use a comma. The Bakerloo line runs between Elephant and Castle, and Harrow and Wealdstone. (Using a comma with two list items is fairly common. It happens when the list items themselves contain commas. In this example, the comma before "and" helps readers to spot the list items faster. They could work it out, but the comma helps.) I used to watch Colombo, and Cagney and Lacey. (This example also has two list items: "Colombo" and "Cagney and Lacey." This time, the comma is more important because the list items could feasibly be "Colombo and Cagney" and "Lacey".) So, in summary, don't use a comma when "and" (or any other coordinating conjunction) joins two items unless it helps your readers. There's an important exception to this rule though. It's important because it's common. When your coordinate conjunction joins two (or more) independent clauses (i.e., ones that could stand alone as individual sentences), then use a comma. I like sweet things, but I prefer savoury dishes. (Here, the clauses being joined (shown in bold) could stand alone as sentences. They are independent clauses. That's why there is a comma before "but.") Compare that with this: I like sweet things but prefer savoury dishes. (This is similar, but "prefer savoury dishes" is not an independent clause. It's not a sentence. That's why there's no comma before "but.") Here are some real-life examples: The lion and the calf shall lie down together, but the calf won't get much sleep. (Film director Woody Allen) (The first coordinating conjunction ("and") joins two nouns, so no comma is required. The second ("but") joins two independent clauses, so a comma is required.) Basically, my wife was immature. I'd be at home in my bath, and she'd come in and sink my boats. (Woody Allen) (The first coordinating conjunction ("and") joins two independent clauses, so a comma is required. The second ("and") joins two verbs, so no comma is required.) Hopefully, that's all clear. But, there's a quirk: If the two "sentences" (i.e., the independent clauses) are both short, it is acceptable – for style purposes – to omit the comma. Craig caught a bass and Lee caught a goby. Craig caught a bass, and Lee caught a goby. (Both versions are acceptable.) Look at this though: The man caught the boy and the girl caught the dog. (For a fleeting moment, your readers will think that the man caught "the boy and the girl". You should try to write in a way that doesn't cause your readers to stutter.) The man caught the boy, and the girl caught the dog. (Your readers will not need to re-adjust now. This example captures why we need a comma before a coordinating conjunction that joins two independent clauses.) When there are three or more list items, life starts getting a little more complicated because there is no unified position on whether to use a comma with the coordinating conjunction. Some people will write this: Bacon, eggs, and tomatoes (The comma before the "and" is called an Oxford Comma. This is the convention followed by most (but not all) Americans.) Some people will write this: Bacon, eggs and tomatoes (This is the convention followed by most (but not all) Brits. The most notable exception is the Oxford University Press, after which the Oxford Comma is named.) There are plenty of people out there who would happily start a fight with you for not using an Oxford Comma, but there are also plenty of others who consider the Oxford Comma a waste of printer ink. In essence, it's a battle of clarity versus economy. Advocates of the Oxford Comma claim it eliminates ambiguity. They have a point. The Oxford Comma is certainly useful for showing the separations between the list items. It's a good price for a mug of tea, bacon and eggs and toast (Without an Oxford Comma, this could mean (1) a mug of tea, (2) bacon, and (3) eggs and toast.) It's a good price for a mug of tea, bacon and eggs, and toast (With an Oxford Comma, the list items are clear.) Protestors to the Oxford Comma claim it introduces ambiguity because commas can be used like parentheses (brackets). Look at these two sentences: Jack left the pub with John (a policeman) and Simon. Jack left the pub with John, a policeman, and Simon. (With an Oxford Comma, this could feasibly refer to two people (like in the top example) or three people.) Advocates claim that the Oxford Comma actually eliminates, not creates, such ambiguity, and they routinely cite this probably apocryphal book dedication: This book is dedicated to my parents, Ayn Rand and God. (This could feasibly be read as "...my parents (Ayn Rand and God)". The same "ambiguity" wouldn't exist with an Oxford Comma before "and.") So, there are arguments for and against the Oxford Comma. As it happens, you probably don't have a choice whether to adopt the Oxford Comma or not. If you live in the UK, you probably shouldn't adopt it (unless you're at Oxford). If you live in the US, you probably should. Whatever convention you go for, be consistent. Well, actually, be flexibly consistent. If your chosen convention creates ambiguity, break the convention. There's only one 100% rule when it comes to the Oxford Comma: clarity trumps convention. In other words, everyone (regardless of what convention they follow) should write this when they mean four people: I have the twins, Joe, and Callum. (for four people) Remember that clarity comes first. Loyalty to, or hatred of, the Oxford Comma comes second. Despite what you may have been told at school, you can start a sentence with a conjunction like "And," "Or" and "But." Bear in mind though that a conjunction at the start of a sentence looks quite striking, so don't do it too often (it gets annoying quickly). However, you should definitely keep this practice in your back pocket to create an impactful start to your sentence. Think of it like this: "And" is an impactful way of saying "In addition" "But" is an impactful way of saying "However" "Or" is an impactful way of saying "Put another way" Here are some real-life examples: And let every other power know that this hemisphere intends to remain the master of its own house. (US President John F Kennedy) I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But, this wasn't it. (Comedian Groucho Marx) When a conjunction starts a sentence, you could argue it's not being used to join like terms but as a link between two sentences (i.e., like a conjunctive adverb such as "however," "consequently," and "therefore"). So, the real question is not whether you can use a coordinating conjunction to start a sentence but whether "and," "but" and "or" are conjunctive adverbs as well as coordinating conjunctions. And, it seems they are. Therefore, should you put a comma after your conjunction like you do with a conjunctive adverb? Well, that's up to you. If you want a pause, go for it. If you don't, don't. It is better to be beautiful than to be good. But, it is better to be good than to be ugly. (Playwright Oscar Wilde) (The comma after "But" provides a pause. It's not a grammar thing. It's a controlling-the-flow-of-text thing.) And I will always love you. (Singer Whitney Houston) (There's no pause for Whitney.) Read more about commas in lists. Key Points for Coordinating Conjunctions Don't use a comma with a coordinating conjunction that joins two items. Don't use a comma with a coordinating conjunction in a list of three or more items (unless you're American or studying at Oxford). Break both of the rules above if using or omitting a comma makes the text clearer. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction that joins two independent clauses. You can start a sentence with a coordinating conjunction, and you can put a comma after it if you want a pause. But, don't start a sentence with a coordinating conjunction too often. It gets annoying. As a native English speaker, you don't need to worry about whether your subordinating conjunction is heading up a clause that establishes a time, a place, a reason, a condition, or a concession. You'll do that bit naturally. The most common question related to subordinating conjunctions is whether to offset the subordinate clause with a comma or not. Here's the guidance: When a subordinate clause starts a sentence, separate it from the main clause with a comma. In each example, the subordinating conjunction is shaded and the subordinate clause is bold. If you shoot at mimes, should you use a silencer? (Comedian Steven Wright) Now that I'm over sixty, I'm veering toward respectability. (Actress Shelley Winters) These are often called "fronted subordinate clauses." A comma is used with a fronted subordinate clause because the comma makes it clear where the main clause starts. When a subordinate clause ends a sentence, you can drop the comma. Should you use a silencer if you shoot at mimes? I'm veering toward respectability now that I'm over sixty. There's a quirk though: You can use a comma for a deliberate pause. As a rule, try to resist using a comma before a subordinating conjunction. However, if you want to create a pause for effect, then a comma can be used. Money is better than poverty, if only for financial reasons. (Film director Woody Allen) Man is ready to die for an idea, provided that idea is not quite clear to him. If you were told at school that a comma represents a pause, then your teacher was giving you reading advice not writing advice. There are specific rules on using commas and "to create a pause" isn't one of them, even though you'd likely get many right if you adopted that rule. That said, this is a time when a comma can be used to create a pause. That's why it's a quirk. It's also pretty common. Let's complicate the issue a bit. The rule that states "do not use a comma when subordinate clause follows the independent clause" is not really the rule. The real rule is "use a comma if the clause is nonessential." The problem, however, is that it's really difficult to decide whether an adverbial clause is essential or nonessential. (It is much easier with adjective clauses.) As the vast majority of adverbial clauses are essential, it's pretty safe, but not entirely safe, to declare that a post-positioned (as it's called when it's at the back) subordinate clause isn't preceded by a comma. Read more about commas with subordinate (or dependent) clauses. Key Points for Subordinating Conjunctions If your subordinate conjunction heads up a clause at the start of your sentence, offset the clause with a comma. If your subordinate conjunction heads up a clause at the back of your sentence, don't use a comma, unless you want a pause for effect (like this one). Correlative conjunctions are useful for keeping your writing succinct. They not only provide a succinct structure to say two things but also express how those two things relate to each other. Generally, correlative conjunctions don't cause native English speakers too much grief, but there are four noteworthy issues associated with correlative conjunctions. Correlative conjunctions come in pairs. You must use the same type of word after each one in the pair. Lee not only likes pies but also cakes. (Here, the first conjunction in the pair sits before a verb ("likes"), but the second sits before a noun ("cakes"). It's not parallel. It's untidy.) He should either sell his watch or his car. (Here, the first conjunction sits before a verb ("sell"), but the second sits before a noun ("his car"). It's not parallel. Untidy.) Lee likes not only pies but also cakes. He should sell either his watch or his car. (In these examples, the first and second conjunctions sit before nouns. Both examples now have parallel structures. Tidy.) Lee not only likes pies but also likes cakes. He should either pawn his watch or sell his car. (In these examples, the first and second conjunctions sit before verbs. Parallel. Tidy.) In truth, few people would describe a non-parallel structure with correlative conjunctions as a serious error, and you'd be unlikely to create ambiguity if you committed that "crime". Nevertheless, try to use parallel terms because, firstly, parallel structures are easier to read and, secondly, you will feel some comfort knowing your sentence structure is sound. Sometimes, writers are unsure whether to use a comma with correlative conjunctions. This question arises most often with the pairing "not only/but also." Here's the rule: Don't use commas with correlative conjunctions. Lee likes not only pies, but also cakes. Unfortunately, it's a little bit more complicated than that. Here's the exception: If the second conjunction sits before an independent clause (i.e., words that could be a standalone sentence), then use a comma. As a father has compassion on his children, so God has compassion on those who fear him. (Bible, Psalm 103:13) It is rare for an independent clause to follow a correlative conjunction, but it does happen, especially with the pairing "not only/but also." Not only does Lee like pies, but he also likes cakes. (Note that the subject of the independent clause ("he") splits "but also." This is necessary because the word "but" is playing two roles. We know it is part of the correlative conjunction "not only/but also," but, in this sentence, it's also a coordinating conjunction. Remember that coordinating conjunctions (e.g., "and," "or," "but") are used to join like elements. Here, it's joining two independent clauses.) Also, be mindful that you might find yourself using a comma before a correlative conjunction because the comma is needed for another reason. Lee likes not only pies, especially cheese and onion, but also cakes. (Here, the commas are offsetting "especially cheese and onion," which is just some additional information (called a parenthesis). So, the comma before "but also" has got nothing to do with correlative conjunctions.) When the pairing "either/or" or "neither/nor" features in the subject of a verb, the verb is singular if both elements are singular. Neither the inspector nor the constable was available for comment. (Both elements ("the inspector" and "the constable") are singular, so the verb ("was") is singular; i.e., using "were" would be wrong.) However, things get complicated if one of the elements is plural because there are two conventions: Convention 1: The Proximity Rule. Under this convention, the element nearest the verb determines whether it's singular or plural. Neither the inspector nor the constables were available for comment. (The element nearest the verb ("constables") is plural, so the verb ("were") is plural.) Convention 2: The Logic Rule. Under this convention, if any of the elements are plural, the verb is plural. Neither the inspectors nor the constable were available for comment. (Here, the first element ("inspectors") is plural, so the verb is plural. This would be wrong using The Proximity Rule.) So, should you use the Proximity Rule or the Logic Rule if one of your elements is plural? Well, both are common, so the quick answer is pick one and be consistent. But, there's a far better answer: satisfy both rules at once. If one of your elements is plural, deliberately put it nearest to the verb. Either the budgies or the cat have to go. (This is correct under the Logic Rule but wrong under the Proximity Rule.) Either the cat or the budgies have to go. (Here, the plural element is nearest to the verb. This is now correct under both rules. Winner.) This all applies to "or" by itself (i.e., without "either"). Be aware that "neither/nor" plays a negative role in your sentence. Be careful not to use a double negative. We did not discuss neither the flooding nor the landslide. (This is a double negative.) Remember that two negatives make a positive. So, the example above means that the flooding and the landslide were discussed, which would not have been the intended meaning. Here are two better options: We discussed neither the flooding nor the landslide. We did not discuss either the flooding or the landslide. Of course, two positives don't make a negative, but it can happen. Yeah, right. Key Points for Correlative Conjunctions Position your correlative conjunctions in your sentence so the same type of word follows each one. In other words, use a parallel structure. Don't use a comma with a correlative conjunction unless the words after it could be a standalone sentence (i.e., contain a subject and a verb and convey a complete idea). Treat a subject that features "either/or" or "neither/nor" as singular if the elements after the conjunctions are singular. If one is plural, put it nearest to the verb and use a plural verb. Don't use a negative verb with "neither/nor" otherwise you'll create a double negative. Here is a 12-minute video summarizing this lesson on conjunctions. video lesson Are you a visual learner? Do you prefer video to text? Here is a list of all our grammar videos. You might also like... Help us improve... Was something wrong with this page? Use #gm to find us quicker. Create a QR code for this, or any, page. XYouTubeFacebookmailing listgrammar forum Conjunctions are powerful tools in English. They connect words, phrases, or clauses, making your writing smooth and meaningful. Without conjunctions, sentences would be choppy and ideas would feel disconnected. In this guide, you’ll learn all the main types of conjunctions with simple explanations and examples. A conjunction is a word used to connect parts of a sentence. These connections can happen between: Words (e.g., cats and dogs) Phrases (e.g., in the kitchen or on the table) Clauses (e.g., I wanted to go, but it was raining) There are three primary types of conjunctions: Coordinating Conjunctions Subordinating Conjunctions Correlative Conjunctions Let’s go through each type in detail. These connect words, phrases, or independent clauses that are grammatically equal. There are seven main coordinating conjunctions, easily remembered using the acronym FANBOYS: For And Nor But Or Yet So I want pizza and pasta. She didn’t study, but she still passed. He was tired, so he went to bed early. Each coordinating conjunction has its own function: ConjunctionUseExampleForReasonShe stayed home, for she was sick.AndAdditionWe bought apples and oranges.NorNegative alternativeHe doesn’t like tea, nor does he like coffee.ButContrastI tried hard, but I failed.OrChoiceWould you like tea or coffee? YetUnexpected contrastIt’s cold, yet sunny.SoResultI was late, so I missed the train. These connect an independent clause with a dependent clause. The dependent clause cannot stand alone and adds extra information. See also  Affect vs. Effect: Know the Difference with Simple Examples Although Because Since If When While Unless After Before As Even though Until Because it was raining, we stayed inside. We left early although the concert wasn’t over. I’ll call you when I get home. You can’t go out unless you finish your homework. These conjunctions often appear at the beginning of complex sentences and introduce time, reason, condition, contrast, or place. These are pairs of words that work together to connect equal elements in a sentence. Either…or Neither…nor Both…and Not only…but also Whether…or Either you come now or I’m leaving. She likes both swimming and running. Not only was the food delicious, but also the service was excellent. Neither Tom nor Jerry could answer the question. Correlative conjunctions require balance. Make sure the parts being joined are of the same grammatical structure. Let’s look at how these conjunctions appear in everyday writing: She wants to go hiking, but it’s too hot outside. Although he was tired, he finished the project. Whether we win or lose, we’ll learn something valuable. Avoid sentence fragments. A subordinating conjunction creates a dependent clause. Don’t leave it hanging without the main clause. Because I was tired. I went to bed early because I was tired. Watch your punctuation.If a dependent clause starts the sentence, use a comma. Although it rained, we had fun. We had fun although it rained. Use parallel structure with correlative conjunctions. She enjoys not only singing but also dancing. She enjoys not only singing but also to dance. Don’t overuse conjunctions.Too many can make your sentences run-on or confusing. Keep it clear and concise. See also  How to Avoid Passive Voice in Writing: Practical Tips & Examples TypeFunctionExamplesCoordinatingJoins equal words/phrases/clausesand, but, or, so, yet, for, norSubordinatingJoins dependent to independent clausebecause, although, since, if, when, unlessCorrelativeJoins in pairseither…or, neither…nor, not only…but also, both…and Understanding how conjunctions work helps you build strong, smooth, and grammatically correct sentences. Whether you’re writing essays, emails, or creative stories, the right use of conjunctions can improve clarity and flow. Conjunctions are words that join phrases, clauses, or words within a sentence, helping us to communicate interconnected and complex things coherently. There are three main types of conjunctions: coordinating, correlative, and subordinating. Coordinating conjunctions, often represented by the acronym FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so), connect words, phrases, or independent clauses of equal grammatical importance in a sentence. Correlative conjunctions operate in pairs—such as either/or and neither/nor—framing grammatically equivalent elements in order to connect clauses that together form a complete thought. Subordinating conjunctions, including although, because, that, and while, connect a dependent clause to the independent clause of a sentence, indicating a specific logical relationship between the two. Here, we’ll discuss the different types of conjunctions and demonstrate with examples how to use them correctly. The AI writing assistant for anyone with work to do Table of contents Definition of a conjunction How do conjunctions work? Coordinating conjunctions Correlative conjunctions Subordinating conjunctions Conjunctive adverbs Starting a sentence with a conjunction List of common conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs Conjunctions FAQs Definition of a conjunction A conjunction is a word that links other words, phrases, or clauses together. There are three main types of conjunctions: coordinating, correlative, and subordinating. How do conjunctions work? Conjunctions create connections that identify the logical relationships between ideas or sentence elements. These relationships may be used to indicate an addition (as with and), create contrast (but, yet, although), establish cause and effect (because), or introduce a condition (unless), among other things. Why conjunctions matter in writing Conjunctions allow you to put together cohesive ideas and incorporate variety in your sentence structures so that you can balance longer, more involved sentences with concise ones. Knowing how to use conjunctions properly enhances the clarity of your writing as well as its overall rhythm and tone. Without conjunctions, you’d be forced to express every complex idea in a series of short, simplistic sentences: I like cooking. I like eating. I don’t like washing dishes afterward. With conjunctions, sentences can be more fluid and sophisticated, and the logical connections between them can be clearly expressed: I like cooking and eating, but I don’t like washing dishes afterward. Here are some further examples, which present the same ideas, first without conjunctions and then with them: Without conjunctions: I am a member of that gym. I can reserve a spot at fitness classes ahead of time. If I were not a member, I would have to arrive early to be sure I could attend. I would have to wait in line for the door to open to be sure I could attend. With conjunctions: Because I am a member of that gym, I can reserve a spot at fitness classes ahead of time, but otherwise I would have to both arrive early and wait in line for the door to open in order to be sure I could attend. Not only is the example without conjunctions distractingly choppy, the logical relationships between its elements are unclear. Want to make sure you’re using conjunctions correctly in your writing? Grammarly can check your spelling and save you from grammar and punctuation mistakes. It even proofreads your text, so your work is extra polished wherever you write.  Coordinating conjunctions Coordinating conjunctions allow you to join words, phrases, and clauses of equal grammatical rank in a sentence. The most common coordinating conjunctions are for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so; you can remember them with the acronym FANBOYS. In the following sentence, the coordinating conjunction or is connecting two nouns: pizza and salad: I’d like pizza or a salad for lunch. When the elements that a coordinating conjunction joins are two independent clauses, a comma is used before the conjunction: She enjoys painting, and he loves playing the guitar. It’s important to make sure that the words or phrases joined by coordinating conjunctions are parallel (have the same structure): I work quickly and careful. I work quickly and carefully. It’s also important not to make the common error of creating a run-on sentence, which is a compound sentence in which two independent clauses are incorrectly separated by just a comma: Incorrect: I work quickly, I check my work carefully. Run-on sentences can be corrected by either adding a coordinating conjunction or changing the comma to a semicolon or period: I work quickly, but I check my work carefully. I work quickly; I check my work carefully. I work quickly. I check my work carefully. Examples of coordinating conjunctions in sentences Here are some more examples of coordinating conjunctions in sentences: They’d never traveled to the coast, for the journey was long and difficult. Please buy apples and peaches at the market. The child doesn’t want to get up, nor does she have an appetite. Jesse didn’t have much money, but they got by. I haven’t seen Malik or Noemi in the longest time. Sophie is clearly exhausted, yet she insists on dancing till dawn. Correlative conjunctions Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together by framing and connecting grammatically identical sentence elements. Some common examples are both/and, either/or, neither/nor, and not only / but also. It’s important to pair correlative conjunctions correctly; avoid common errors like I take both pilates as well as swimming at the YMCA (it should be I take both pilates and swimming at the YMCA). Examples of correlative conjunctions in sentences I am finished with both my English essay and my history essay. The cats’ food needs to move either out of the kitchen or onto a higher surface that the dog can’t reach. Neither Shel’s mother nor her father has ever been to visit her in Amsterdam. Not only am I finished studying for English, but I’m also finished writing my history essay. Subordinating conjunctions Subordinating conjunctions join dependent clauses to the independent clauses of sentences, signaling cause and effect, comparison, contrast, time, or some other kind of relationship between the clauses. Common subordinating conjunctions include because, since, as, although, though, until, while, and whereas. They introduce a dependent clause that depends on the sentence’s independent clause to make sense: I can stay out until the clock strikes twelve. Here, the presence of the subordinating conjunction until makes until the clock strikes twelve a dependent clause; it is dependent on the independent clause (I can stay out) for its meaning, and it in turn provides clarifying information about the independent clause. A subordinating conjunction doesn’t need to go between the two clauses the way it does in the above examples. It must introduce the dependent clause, but the dependent clause can come before the independent clause. Before he leaves, make sure his room is clean. If the dependent clause comes first, use a comma before the independent clause. I drank a glass of water because I was thirsty. Because I was thirsty, I drank a glass of water. That as a subordinating conjunction The word that, which is usually a demonstrative pronoun or a relative pronoun, sometimes acts as a subordinating conjunction by introducing a dependent clause after certain kinds of verbs, adjectives, and nouns in a sentence’s independent clause. That clauses with verbs Dependent clauses beginning with that often follow verbs that express acts of statement (such as say, report, indicate, and so on) or acts of thought (think, know, believe, hope, imagine, and so on): The professor said that we would all get our grades over break. I imagine that she and I will talk this over when we see each other next. That clauses with adjectives Another kind of dependent clause introduced by that often follows an independent clause with a form of to be and an adjective having to do with a feeling or opinion. These adjectives include sure, certain, excited, sorry, and others: He was certain that he had locked the door when he left. I am excited that we are taking the martial arts class together. That clauses with nouns Independent clauses with certain nouns that name opinions, feelings, or statements used as direct objects, indirect objects, or objects of prepositions are also often followed by dependent clauses beginning with that. Such nouns include belief, fact, hope, idea, and possibility: I am holding on to the hope that the art center will raise the funds to stay open. She shared the possibility that the café would start staying open later on weekends. Omitting that That as a subordinating conjunction in any of the above circumstances can be omitted if the meaning remains clear: I imagine she and I will talk this over when we see each other next. He was certain he had locked the door when he left. Examples of subordinating conjunctions in sentences They continued to drive slowly although it had stopped raining. She often goes to the cinema alone since she doesn’t enjoy talking after movies. Whereas we usually go out for New Year’s Eve, this year we decided to celebrate at home. He doesn’t like to travel by bus unless it’s for a very short distance. Conjunctive adverbs A conjunctive adverb is an adverb that does the job of a conjunction: It connects two clauses or ideas by modifying one of them. Functionally, it can link two independent clauses in one sentence using a semicolon between the clauses and, usually, a comma after the conjunctive adverb. It can also link the ideas in two sentences or link ideas within an independent clause. Conjunctive adverbs often express ideas of addition (also, besides, furthermore), cause and effect (accordingly, consequently, therefore), clarification (namely, that is), comparison (likewise, similarly), contrast (however, regardless, still), emphasis (certainly, indeed), or time (meanwhile, recently, beforehand). Examples of conjunctive adverbs in sentences I have lived in this town since I was seven; also, I still live in the house I grew up in. She is an avid gardener. That is, she grows much of the food for her household. He believed in responsible consumption and lived accordingly. Raven works a lot of hours at their day job; nevertheless, they always find time for their artwork. Starting a sentence with a conjunction Many of us were taught in school that it’s a mistake to begin a sentence with a conjunction, but that rule is a myth. As mentioned above, a subordinating conjunction can begin a sentence if the dependent clause comes before the independent clause. It’s also correct to begin a sentence with a coordinating conjunction. Often, it’s a good way to add emphasis. Beginning too many sentences with conjunctions will cause the device to lose its force, however, so use this technique sparingly. Have a safe trip. And don’t forget to call when you get home. Gertie flung open the door. But there was no one on the other side. List of common conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs Here’s a table showing common coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and conjunctive adverbs. Conjunctions are often small words, but they do a big job, allowing you to make smooth and elegant logical connections while varying the lengths and structures of your sentences. Mastering the different types of conjunctions and how to use them correctly will advance the sophistication and clarity of your writing immeasurably. Conjunctions FAQs What are the three main types of conjunctions? Coordinating conjunctions allow you to join words, phrases, and clauses of equal grammatical rank in a sentence. The most common coordinating conjunctions are for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so. Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together. Some examples are both/and, either/or, and neither/nor. Subordinating conjunctions signal cause and effect, a contrast, or some other kind of relationship between the clauses. Common subordinating conjunctions are because, since, as, and although. Can you start a sentence with a conjunction? Starting a sentence with a coordinating conjunction like and, but, or so is grammatically acceptable, especially in conversational or informal writing. However, be mindful of not starting too many sentences with coordinating conjunctions, as this can make the writing feel repetitive. What is the difference between a conjunction and a conjunctive adverb? A conjunctive adverb is similar to a coordinating conjunction in that it links sentences, independent clauses, or other grammatically equal elements. It is different in that it does this while still functioning as an adverb, turning the clause that it introduces into an adverbial modifier of the previous clause. Your writing, at its best.Works on all your favorite websitesImprove your writing with a Grammarly Free accountWrite without mistakesGenerate text with AI promptsLearn your writing toneGet Grammarly It’s freeRelated Articles You might know the definition of a conjunction, but seeing this list of conjunctions will help you sear that definition in your mind.  Remember that conjunctions are words that join two or more words, phrases, or clauses. There are three types of conjunctions (coordinating, subordinating, and correlative), and we'll look at examples of all of them here. Are you ready? Let's get started.  1. List of Coordinating Conjunctions  Coordinating conjunctions join sentence elements that are the same. They can join words, phrases, and clauses.  cookies and milk (joining words)into the house and out the door (joining phrases)He came and she left. (joining clauses) There are only seven of these, and they're easy to memorize if you use the mnemonic device FANBOYS. For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So Sentence diagrams are little pictures of sentences. They help us to see the grammatical relationship between words in a sentence. This sentence diagram shows us that coordinating conjunctions connect two or more sentence elements. The coordinating conjunction goes on a dotted, vertical line between the things that it connects.The conjunction in this diagram is connecting two independent clauses. We call this type of sentence a compound sentence. 2. List of Subordinating Conjunctions Subordinating conjunctions are conjunctions that join dependent adverb clauses to independent clauses.  I will eat broccoli after I eat this cookie. I will eat broccoli = independent clauseafter I eat this cookie = dependent adverb clauseafter = subordinating conjunction introducing the adverb clauseThere are many subordinating conjunctions, so keep in mind that this list doesn't include all of them! A WHITE BUS is a way to help you memorize some of the subordinating conjunctions. A after, although, as, as if, as long as, as much as, as soon as, as though B because, before, by the time E even if, even though F forI if, in order that, in case L lest O once, only if P provided that S since, so that T than, that, though, till U unless, until W when, whenever, where, wherever, while  You can see that these kinds of conjunctions connect dependent clauses (also called subordinate clauses) to independent clauses just by looking at the sentence diagram! The subordinating conjunction goes on a dotted line between the two clauses. The top clause is an independent clause and the bottom clause is a dependent clause. We call this kind of sentence a complex sentence. Would you like to download these word lists? Word Lists for the 8 Parts of Speech (Nouns, Pronouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions, & Interjections)17 PagesPrintable100% Money-Back GuaranteeOnly $2.99 3. List of Conjunctions - Correlative Conjunctions You don't hear too much about these kinds of conjunctions, and that's partly because we don't use them very much. They actually do the same thing that coordinating conjunctions do except that they are always used in pairs.  This cookie contains neither chocolate nor nuts.  both...and  either...or  neither...nor  not only...but also  whether...or  Here's a sentence diagram of the correlative conjunction both...and. Did you notice that it's diagrammed in the same way that we diagrammed our coordinating conjunction above? I thought you would. You're so smart. Conjunction or Preposition? There's one very important thing to remember when it comes to word lists like this list of conjunctions: many of the words on this list can also act as other parts of speech.That's right—many of these words aren't always conjunctions! In order to know whether or not one of these words is a conjunction, you need to look at it in the context of a sentence. When you do that, you can ask yourself is this word connecting words, phrases, or clauses in this sentence? If the answer is yes, then it's a conjunction. If the answer is no, then it's acting as another part of speech in that particular sentence. Let's check out an example. Look at these two sentences that both contain the word for. In one sentence, for is a conjunction, and in the other, it's not. Can you tell which is which? A. I'm looking for bananas.B. He felt energized, for he had just won the competition.What do you think? Which sentence is using for as a conjunction? A. I'm looking for bananas. (preposition)B. He felt energized, for he had just won the competition. (conjunction) If you said sentence B is using for as a conjunction, you are correct. In sentence B, for is connecting the two clauses he felt energized and he had just won the competition.Now let's look at sentence A. In this sentence, for is a preposition. It's in the prepositional phrase for bananas. Conjunctions don't connect single words to sentences; they connect words to other words, phrases to other phrases, and clauses to other clauses. It might seem to you that for should be a conjunction in sentence A because it's "connecting" the noun bananas to the rest of the sentence, and in a way, that is correct. However, that's the job of a preposition! Prepositions show the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and the rest of the sentence. Prepositions are kind of like special noun connectors. I like to think of them as noun hooks. Conjunctions, on the other hand, don't connect single words (like nouns) to sentences; they connect words to other words (cookies and milk), phrases to other phrases (into the room and to the left), and clauses to other clauses (I know the answer, but he doesn't).Let's make this concept visual by comparing the sentence diagrams of a coordinating conjunction and a preposition. Notice that the conjunction is joining a clause to another clause. There is a clause above and below the conjunction. Notice that the preposition is "connecting" a word (a noun called "the object of the preposition") to the rest of the sentence. It has the special job of showing us how the noun relates to the rest of the sentence.  I hope that helps! If you're ever struggling to figure out if a word is a conjunction or not, I would strongly suggest looking up the word in a dictionary.For example, you can see that in Merriam-Webster's definition for for, they show you definitions and examples for the word as a preposition and as a conjunction! This can be really helpful when you can't figure out whether a word is a conjunction or another part of speech. Summary Let's review what we covered on this page!Conjunctions join words, phrases, or clauses.There are three types: coordinating, subordinating, and correlative. Words on the list of conjunctions can also function as other parts of speech. When they're not acting as conjunctions, they're often acting as prepositions.  Conjunction definition: A conjunction is a part of speech that connects clauses or sentences. A conjunction also connects coordinating words in the same clause. What is a Conjunction in Grammar? A conjunction is a part of speech that acts as a connector. The word itself literally means join (con-) together (junct). Conjunctions are used to connect clauses, sentences, or words in writing. Conjunctions serve to join together ideas or words. Conjunction Examples: Timmy wanted to ride his bike and he wanted to go to the park. Sofia did not like bananas but she loved apples. I play baseball, soccer, and football for my school. Types of Conjunctions There are few primary types of conjunctions in English: coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and correlative conjunctions. Coordinating Conjunctions What are coordinating conjunctions? Coordinating conjunctions connect words, phrases, and clauses. They link ideas or concepts. A coordinating conjunction gives equal emphasis or importance to clauses, phrases, and words. Use coordinating conjunctions when you want to show equality. Coordinating Conjunctions List: and but for nor or so yet You can remember the list of coordinating conjunctions with the mnemonic FANBOYS > For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So. Examples: I tried to answer the question, but I did not have enough time. In this example, each clause has equal weight. It is equally important that “I tried” and that “I did not have enough time.” You may bring a main dish or a side dish to the party. In this example, the “main dish” and “side dish” carry the same importance. It does not matter which you bring, just bring one. When a coordinating conjunction joins two long independent clauses, a comma is used before the conjunction. The doctor provided the results, yet he did

not explain them to us and we were further confused. The company, Niantic Inc., fixed the issue Tuesday with an app update, but the episode is a reminder of how easy it is for smartphone users to give carte blanche access to private data—and how much other information apps like this regularly collect. –The Wall Street Journal Furthermore, use a serial (Oxford) comma to separate a list, including a comma before the conjunction. Please buy eggs, milk, and cheese at the store. Subordinating Conjunctions What are subordinating conjunctions? Subordinating conjunctions connect two clauses in complex sentences. One clause is independent (main clause) and the other clause is dependent (subordinating clause). The first word in the dependent clause is a subordinating conjunction. Subordinating Conjunctions List Here is a list, albeit not exhaustive, of subordinating conjunctions. After Although As Because Before Even if Even though If In order that Once Provided that Rather than Since So that Than That Though Unless Until When Whenever Where Whereas Wherever Whether While Why As you can see, there are many more subordinating conjunctions, so there isn't an easy memory trick like there is with coordinating conjunctions. Commas are placed after the subordinate clause when the clause begins the sentence. After a long interview, the team hired Fernando. Although Washington frequently dips below 32 degrees in the winter months, the bottom of ponds and rivers do not get cold enough to freeze. –The Washington Post If the subordinating clause is at the end of the sentence, no comma is needed. The team hired Fernando after a long interview. Correlative Conjunctions What are correlative conjunctions? Correlative conjunctions are conjunctions that work in tandem to join clauses or phrases of equal weight. My brother will begin either trade school or community college in the fall. He is not only a strong student but also a gifted athlete. Use a comma before the second coordinating conjunctions when they join two lengthy independent clauses. Not only did she graduate with honors, but she also gave the commencement speech. Can You Start a Sentence With a Conjunction? It is possible to start a sentence with a conjunction. However, many writing teachers will tell novice writers to avoid this. Beginning a sentence with a conjunction can add a certain rhythm to your prose, but it isn't a good habit to do generally. It is usually done for stylistic effect. For this reason (as mentioned above), many teachers will tell novice writers to avoid doing so, which isn't an absolute rule but a good, general one. Consistently having sentences that start with conjunctions is a sign of disjointed or novice writing. Common Questions About Conjunctions Every once in a while I get random questions sent to me on Twitter or email about conjunctions, so I wanted to put a specific section on here addressing some of the more common conjunctions questions. Is The a Conjunction? The is what is known as the definite article. You can read more about it here. Is To a Conjunction? To is what is known as a preposition. You can read more about those here. Is But a Conjunction? But is a coordinating conjunction. See above for more information. Is If a Conjunction? If is a subordinating conjunction. See above for more information. Is Although a Conjunction? Although is a subordinating conjunction. See above for more information. Is Of a Conjunction? Is However a Conjunction? However is conjunctive adverb. It cannot join independent clauses together. I went to the movies, however, I'm not sure why I did. (Incorrect) I went to the movies; however, I'm not sure why I did. (Correct) Is By a Conjunction? Summary: What are Conjunctions? Define conjunctions: The definition of a conjunction is a word used to connect clauses or sentences or to coordinate words in the same clause. To sum up, a conjunction is: a part of speech a word or paring of words that joins phrases, clauses, or words essential to making writing complex and concise Imagine trying to communicate without conjunctions. You would be left with a string of brief, isolated thoughts. Like the following sentences. "I like to bake. I like to eat. I don't like washing dishes." Conjunctions are the essential words that link these ideas, helping us convert complex thoughts into cohesive sentences. Conjunctions bring fluency and structure to our language whether for joining two ideas, contrasting different points, or listing multiple actions. In this blog, we will discuss what conjunctions are and the different types that exist. We will also explore how these small words can transform your writing into something more natural, engaging, and expressive. Conjunctions are essential words that connect other words, phrases, or clauses. It gives sentences a smoother, more refined flow. They allow you to express multiple ideas in a single, cohesive statement instead of using a series of short and disjointed sentences. If we take the previous example, we can say, "I like cooking and eating, but I don't like washing dishes afterward." This structure is clearer and more engaging, all thanks to conjunctions. Let's consider more conjunction examples. I like to write songs and compose music. Cynthia is exhausted, yet she insists on baking everything from scratch. Sophie studied hard, so she passed the exam. We did a complete preparation for the picnic, still nobody enjoyed it. John asked for help because he was injured. With conjunctions, you can create sentences that sound natural and connected. But it is essential to ensure that the phrases joined by these conjunctions are parallel. They share the same grammatical structure. For example: Incorrect: He likes singing and plays guitar. Correct: He likes singing and playing guitar. Conjunctions fall into four main categories. Each type has its unique functions for joining ideas in a sentence. Let's break down each type and look at how to use them effectively. Coordinating Conjunctions Correlative Conjunctions Subordinating Conjunctions Conjunctive Adverbs Coordinating conjunctions like and, but, or, and so, are single words that connect similar grammatical elements. They connect words as two nouns or two clauses where each carries equal importance in the sentence. These conjunctions help combine two independent clauses and make the sentence smoother and more concise. Coordinating Conjunction Examples: I stayed up all night writing, so I was not able to wake up early. She loves to write short stories and publish them in local magazines. I would love to have an ice cream but it will disturb my calorie intake. When joining two independent clauses (complete thoughts), a comma is placed before the coordinating conjunction. However, if you are linking an independent clause with a dependent clause, you can skip the comma. With a comma: There are too many, that's why we need to reconsider. Without a comma: I do not like Italian food but I love their desserts. Correlative conjunctions work in pairs to link ideas that are equally important. These conjunctions are either/or, both/and, not only/but also, and more. Like coordinating conjunctions, they connect similar grammatical structures to ensure the ideas have a balanced and parallel form in the sentence. Correlative Conjunction Examples: I not only got selected for the competition, but also got the first prize. Both you and Alex were supposed to attend your sister's wedding. Neither me nor Rachel are interested in investing in your stupid business idea. Always ensure that the sentences are constructed in parallel structure. Each part of the sentence following the conjunctions should mirror the structure of the other to maintain clarity and flow. Incorrect: We should either plan the trip in advance or getting a travel agent handle it all. Correct: We should either plan the trip in advance or get a travel agent handle it all. Subordinating conjunctions are used to join an independent clause with a dependent clause. Words such as since, because, although, and while, are used to create complex sentences. These conjunctions introduce the dependent clause, add reasons, conditions, time, or contrasts to the main idea. Subordinating Conjunction Examples: Unless we give him money, he is not going to help us. Ben participated in the group activities although he was mad. Here are some discount coupons in case the store accepts them. A rule of thumb is to place a comma after the dependent clause when it appears at the beginning of a sentence. If the dependent clause follows the main clause, a comma isn't necessary. With a comma: As soon as she finishes her food, we will go to a dessert place. Without a comma: We will go to a dessert place as soon as she finishes her food. Other than the three main types of conjunctions, there are some other terms used as conjunctions. These words are known as conjunctive adverbs, like however, therefore, and meanwhile. They technically act as adverbs but serve to link two independent clauses. Conjunctive adverbs are versatile and often emphasize contrast, consequence, or addition. Conjunctive Adverb Examples: She was doing laundry while the dinner got ready. The dessert looks so tempting; however, I am cutting down sugar. We are happy to take you to the trip; after all, you are our best friend. When a conjunctive adverb connects two independent clauses, use a semicolon before it and a comma after. You may have heard that it is incorrect to begin a sentence with a conjunction, especially a coordinating conjunction like and, or, and but. Beginner writers are often taught this rule, but it is not strictly true. In fact, starting a sentence with a conjunction can be a powerful stylistic choice. It helps to emphasize a particular point or create a dramatic pause. Example: I will not be present at the event. But you can call me anytime if you need help. You are sitting here? And I was looking for you outside. Can you get me a black suit? Or I will have to stitch it myself. This technique is common in creative and informal writing. It is generally best to avoid it in academic contexts where formality and clarity are required. A subordinating conjunction can also begin a sentence. But it must introduce a dependent clause that is followed by a complete independent clause. This structure can add variety and depth to your writing by establishing context before presenting the main idea. Example: Unless you communicate about boundaries in a proper way, nobody will adjust their behaviour for you. However, remember that a dependent clause on its own creates an incomplete thought. So, it will be referred to as a sentence fragment. Or it could answer a question. Fragment: When will everybody adjust their behaviour? Unless you communicate about boundaries in a proper way. Fragments are only acceptable in informal writing and speech but they are avoided in formal or academic writing for clarity. Conjunctions have a great role in creating that perfect coordination between words and phrases. They help to manage and organize related ideas in a proper way. Without these words, we will be left with short and difficult to read sentences. So, they must be used correctly to transform the ideas into a synchronized version. If you want to use the conjunctions and other parts of speech accurately, get the Grammar Checker. It will keep you free from the hassle of proofreading every single sentence. So, access the grammar checking tool and make your content free of all the possible grammatical errors. Work with an AI writing partner that helps you find the words you need—to write that tricky email, to get your point across, to keep your work moving.Sorry, your browser doesn't support embedded videosSorry, your browser doesn't support embedded videosSorry, your browser doesn't support embedded videosSorry, your browser doesn't support embedded videosSorry, your browser doesn't support embedded videosSorry, your browser doesn't support embedded videos Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. In this blog post, you will learn about conjunctions in English, which are words that connect words, phrases, or sentences to make your writing more coherent. Conjunctions help link ideas smoothly, making communication clear and organized. There are different types of conjunctions, such as coordinating, subordinating, and correlative, each serving a specific purpose. We will explain their definitions, types, and provide simple examples for easy understanding.Conjunctions are words that connect words, phrases, or sentences. They help link ideas and make our speech or writing flow more smoothly..Example Sentences:I wanted to go out, but it started raining.She likes tea, and he prefers coffee.We can watch a movie or go for a walk.Conjunctions are divided into three main types:Coordinating ConjunctionsSubordinating ConjunctionsCorrelative ConjunctionsThese are the most common conjunctions and are used to connect words, phrases, or independent clauses that are of equal importance. There are seven coordinating conjunctions that can be remembered using the acronymFANBOYS:Example words: and, but, or, soExample sentences:I wanted to go out, but it started raining.She likes apples, and he loves oranges.You can stay home, or you can come with us.Subordinating conjunctions connect an independent clause (a complete sentence) with a dependent clause (a sentence that cannot stand alone). These conjunctions show the relationship between the two parts, such as time, cause, or contrast.Subordinating conjunctions Words:BecauseAlthoughSinceWhenIfWhileAfterBeforeExample words: because, although, since, whileExample sentences:Because it was raining, we stayed inside.Although she was tired, she kept working.I'll call you when I get home.Paired conjunctions, also called correlative conjunctions, work in pairs to join equal elements in a sentence. They ensure balance and clarity by linking two equally important ideas or actions.Paired conjunctions Words:Either…orNeither…norBoth…andNot only…but alsoExample words: either…or, neither…nor, not only…but alsoExample sentences:Either you come with me, or you stay here.Neither the rain nor the traffic could stop us.Not only did she finish her homework, but also she helped her brother.I love reading books, but I don't have much time.She is tired, yet she keeps working hard.We can go to the park, or we can stay home.They didn't finish their work because they were late.Although it was cold, we went for a walk.You can have tea or coffee, whichever you prefer.Since it's raining, we should stay indoors.He likes both pizza and burgers.If you study hard, you will pass the exam.Not only is she smart, but also she is very kind..Even though conjunctions are simple to use, they can lead to some common mistakes, especially for beginners. Let's look at a few of the most frequent errors and how to avoid them.1. Using the wrong conjunctionSometimes, people choose a conjunction that doesn't fit the relationship between the ideas in a sentence. For example:✗ I studied hard, because I failed the test.✓ I studied hard, but I failed the test.2. Starting a sentence with a conjunction incorrectlyWhile it is acceptable to start sentences with conjunctions in informal writing or speech, doing so incorrectly can make the sentence unclear:✗ And I went to the store.✓ I went to the store. And I bought some fruit.3. Forgetting to balance correlative conjunctionsCorrelative conjunctions (like either/or, neither/nor, not only/but also) must always come in pairs. Forgetting one part of the pair leads to unbalanced sentences:✗ He likes either coffee.✓ He likes either coffee or tea.4. Incorrect punctuation with conjunctionsWhen connecting two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction, you need a comma before the conjunction. Missing it is a common mistake:✗ I went to the park and I played football.✓ I went to the park, and I played football.5. Overusing conjunctionsOverusing conjunctions can make sentences unnecessarily long or confusing. It's important to break ideas into clear, concise sentences:✗ She went to the store, and she bought some milk, and then she went home, and she made dinner.✓ She went to the store, bought some milk, and then went home to make dinner.You can start a sentence with a conjunction (like and, but, or, so, yet, etc.). This can help your writing sound more natural and conversational.Why Use It?Starting with a conjunction can help connect ideas and make your writing flow better. It can also emphasize what you want to say.And I really enjoyed the movie.But I didn't like the ending.Or we could try a different restaurant.Make sure your sentence isn't just a fragment. It should have a complete thought.✓ But I still want to go out.✗ And is my favorite season.Don't use this too much, or your writing might sound awkward.✓ Yet I found a way to solve the problem.✗ And I went to the store. And I bought some milk.Conjunctions are words used to connect other words, phrases, or clauses within a sentence. They serve to link ideas, creating sentences that are clearer and more natural for reading or listening. Think of conjunctions as bridges that help show the relationship between different parts of a sentence.Conjunctions are essential because they make it easier to combine ideas without needing multiple, shorter sentences. This makes our sentences smoother and helps clarify the connections between thoughts.Conjunctions can join two words (e.g., tea and coffee), phrases (e.g., in the morning or at night), or clauses (e.g., I wanted to call you, but I forgot).You May Also Like Conjunctions are words that join together other words or groups of words. There are three types: coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and correlative conjunctions. Don't be scared of words like correlative, subordinating, and coordinating; they are not going to hurt you, and we'll explain their meanings in just a minute. What is a coordinating conjunction? Coordinating conjunctions join together words, or groups of words, that are of equal importance or weight. The farm grows peaches, plums, and apricots. I can meet before 11 or after 2. The meal was very good but quite expensive. I knew it had been raining—for her umbrella was wet. I don't know where the key is, nor would I tell you if I did. The dress is simple yet elegant. Everyone was reading, so things were very quiet. When placed at the beginning of a sentence, a coordinating conjunction may also link two sentences or paragraphs. The preparations were complete. But where were the guests? She told him that he would have to work to earn her trust. And he proceeded to do just that. What is a subordinating conjunction? A subordinating conjunction introduces a subordinate clause (a group of words that has a subject and verb but that does not form a simple sentence by itself) and joins it to a main clause (a group of words that can be used as a simple sentence by itself). She waited until they were seated. It has been about 20 minutes since they left. Don't call unless you're coming. I get up early so I can go for a walk before work. They were undecided whether to go or stay. What is a correlative conjunction? Correlative conjunctions are used in pairs. They link alternatives or equal elements. Either you reply or I will. Both Jane and Jill attended. Neither students nor staff are required to attend. The gift included not only books but also money. The ultimate list of conjunctions and conjunction words in English. The English language would be vastly different without a multitude of conjunction to bring complex thoughts together. After all, people use conjunctions in their verbal and written communications daily. Conjunction Words Examples PinConjunction Words – Created by 7ESL What is a Conjunction Word? Conjunctions are not glamorous, but they do serve an important function. You can think of them as joining words. Conjunctions labor to bring words and phrases together. They help the writer create longer, more complex sentences. Only using simple sentences would limit the richness of a writer's text. Examples of Simple Sentences The girl hit the ball. He loathed her. The girl has blue eyes. Including complex sentences alongside simple sentences makes for stronger prose. You can break conjunctions down into three subgroups: correlative conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and coordinating conjunctions. Each subgroup is distinct and follows its own rules. Conjunctions can bring two clauses together. They can begin or operate in the middle of sentences. Conjunctions can also help strengthen the structure of a sentence. Conjunction Word Examples I love Monica and Raquelle. I spent three hours fishing, but I never caught anything. I want a dog or a lama. I went to see the doctor because I thought I was dying. The first and third examples show conjunctions joining dependent clauses. The second example shows the conjunction "but" joining two independent clauses. The fourth sentence uses the word "because" to join two simple sentences. List of Conjunctions Coordinating Conjunction Words Most people think of coordinating conjunctions when they hear the word conjunction. Coordinating conjunctions consist of seven words. These words connect words, phrases, or clauses of equal grammatical importance. Coordinating Conjunctions List There are seven coordinating conjunctions. You can use the mnemonic FANBOYS to help you remember them. F is for "for" A is for "and" N is for "nor" B is for "but" O is for "or" Y is for "yet" S is for "so" Each coordinating conjunctions serves different purposes when used. For instance, "or" introduces change while "so" emphasizes a word, phrase, or clause. So" can also indicate a result or consequence will be forthcoming. You utilize "and" when you wish to link two things together. "But" introduces contrast into a sentence. "Nor", on the other hand, brings forth an alternative negative idea. "Nor" responds to an already presented negative concept. Finally, the word "yet" introduces a contrasting thought. It follows logically after an alternative idea. How to Use Coordinating Conjunctions These examples show you how to use these conjunctions in a sentence. I visit the planetarium every Tuesday afternoon, for I enjoy viewing the stars. I visit my mother and the ice cream man in central park. I don't go for the ambiance nor the stirred fried rice. Correlative Conjunction Words Correlative conjunctions work in pairs. Each word of the couple resides in a different area of the sentence. For correlative conjunctions to function properly, you must introduce both terms into the sentence. The word couples connect equal sentence parts. For instance, if you use a noun after the word "both" you will need to place a noun after "and" as well. This helps add structure to a sentence. Correlative Conjunctions List Below are some correlative pairs you can use to structure your sentences. Some of these pairs are more common than others. both/and whether/or not only/but also either/or neither/nor just/so the/the as/as if/then rather/than no sooner/than such/that so/that How to Use Correlating Conjunctions Listed below are examples of how correlating conjunctions function. Note how these pairs work together to shape the meaning of the sentence. I didn't know whether you'd like sea bass or lobster. She is not thinking as logically as she can. I stole not only the hubcaps but also the tires. Subordinating Conjunction Words Subordinating conjunctions link dependent clauses to independent clauses. A dependent clause cannot operate as a complete sentence: however, an independent clause can. Hence, dependent clauses add extra information to a sentence. Subordinating conjunctions establish a relationship between two clauses. You can use these conjunctions to suggest cause and effect or to set up a contrast. "Because" is one conjunction that demonstrates a cause and effect relationship. The words "although" and "though" introduce a contrast of ideas. These conjunctions can appear at the beginning of a sentence when a dependent clause appears before an independent clause. You can find "because" at the beginning of a sentence in a dependent clause. Teachers often tell their students that sentences cannot begin with words like "because". Teachers do this to prevent young students from writing incomplete sentences. It leads some students in later life to think starting a sentence with a conjunction like "because" is wrong; however, subordinate conjunctions like "because" can successfully begin a sentence. Subordinating Conjunctions List Many subordinating conjunctions exist. Listed below are some of the many. after although as as if as long as as much as as soon as as far as as though by the time in as much as inasmuch in order to in order that in case lest though now that now since now when now even if even even though provided provide that if if then if when if only just as where wherever whereas where if whether since because whose whoever unless while before why so that until how since than till whenever supposing when or not what How to Use Subordinating Conjunctions Find examples of how to use some of the subordinating conjunctions below. Because of the dog bite, I always feared being next to canines. This will make sense if you read the first chapter Until you wear a silk dress, you'll never know what you are missing. I grab a coffee when I go running. As I climb the mountain, I know my legs will hurt tomorrow. In the above example sentences the subordinating conjunctions "because", "until", and "as" sit at the beginning of their respective sentences. This proves the myth about subordinating clauses being unable to start sentences false. These conjunctions do not have to function solely at the beginning of the sentence. In the examples above the words "when" and "if" find themselves in the middle of a sentence. List of Conjunctions in English | Video