

Writing Centre

CONJUNCTIONS

A conjunction is a joiner: a word that connects (conjoins) parts of a sentence. There are three basic types of conjunctions:

Coordinating Conjunctions - used to connect two independent clauses

Subordinating Conjunctions - used to establish the relationship between the dependent clause and the rest of the sentence

Correlative Conjunctions - always travel in pairs, joining various sentence elements that should be treated as grammatically equal.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Coordinating conjunctions may join single words or they may join groups of words, but they must always join similar elements (e.g. subject plus another subject, sentence plus another sentence).

There are seven coordinating conjunctions in English. An easy way to remember these seven conjunctions is to think of the acronym FANBOYS:

FOR - introduces the reason for the preceding clause

AND - joins two similar ideas together

NOR - commonly used is as the little brother in the correlative pair, neither-nor

BUT - joins two contrasting ideas together

OR - joins two alternative ideas

YET - is very similar to 'but' as it also joins two contrasting ideas together



SO - shows that the second idea is the result of the first

Examples:

The bowl of stew is hot **and** delicious.

John is Canadian, **but** Sally is English.

Rocky terrorizes the poodles next door, **yet** adores the German shepherd across the street.

I could cook some supper, **or** we could order a pizza.

She was sick, **so** she went to the doctor.

Tip: Always use precede a coordinating conjunction with a comma when joining independent clauses.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION

A subordinating conjunction is a word which joins together a dependent clause and an independent clause. The most common examples include the following:

BECAUSE, AS, SINCE - Used to introduce the cause in a cause/effect relationship between two ideas

SO - introduces an effect in a cause/effect relationship between two ideas

ALTHOUGH, (even) THOUGH, WHEREAS, WHILE - are used to express contrast between ideas

AFTER - is used to show time

Examples:

Because it was raining, I took my umbrella.



Although she's small, she's very strong.

John is short, **whereas** Mary is tall.

I lost my job **because** I was often late.

Since I have no money, I can't go to the movie.

Tip: When a subordinating conjunction begins a sentence, separate the clauses with a comma.

CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

Correlative conjunctions always travel in pairs, joining various sentence elements that should be treated as grammatically equal. Here is a brief list of common correlative conjunctions:

BOTH . . . AND

NOT ONLY . . . BUT ALSO

NOT . . . BUT

EITHER . . . OR

NEITHER . . . NOR

WHETHER . . . OR

AS . . . AS

Examples:

Both my grandfather **and** my father worked in the steel plant.

Bring **either** a macaroni salad **or** scalloped potatoes.



Corinne is trying to decide **whether** to go to medical school **or** to go to law school.

The explosion destroyed **not only** the school, **but also** the neighbouring library.

Source:

<http://newton.uor.edu/facultyfolder/rider/conjunctions.htm>

"Conjunctions." (n.d.). Retrieved from

<http://newton.uor.edu/facultyfolder/rider/conjunctions.htm>

**Developed by: The Writing Centre/ Laurinda Medeiros / June 2011
October 2013**

Revised by Derek Jenkins,