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

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Revised by Derek Jenkins, October 2013