**Writing Centre**

**CONJUNCTIONS**

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

1. **Coordinating Conjunctions**-used to connect two independent clauses
2. **Subordinating Conjunctions**-used to establish the relationship between the dependent clause and the rest of the sentence
3. **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:**

1. The bowl of stew is hot anddelicious.
2. John is Canadian, **but** Sally is English.
3. Rocky terrorizes the poodles next door, yetadores the German shepherd across the street.
4. I could cook some supper, **or** we could order a pizza.
5. She was sick, **so** she went to the doctor.

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

**SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS**

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

1. **BECAUSE, AS, SINCE** - Used to introduce the **cause** in a cause/effect relationship between two ideas
2. **SO** - introduces an effect in a cause/effect relationship between two ideas
3. **ALTHOUGH, (even) THOUGH, WHEREAS, WHILE** - are used to express contrast between ideas
4. **AFTER** - is used to show time

**Examples:**

1. **Because** it was raining, I took my umbrella.
2. **Although** she's small, she's very strong.
3. John is short, **whereas** Mary is tall.
4. I lost my job **because** I was often late.
5. **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:

1. **BOT HAND**
2. **NOT ONLY BUT ALSO**
3. **NOT BUT**
4. **EITHER OR**
5. **NEITHER NOR**
6. **WHETHER OR**
7. **AS AS**

**Examples:**

1. **Both** my grandfather **and** my father worked in the steel plant.
2. Bring **either** a macaroni salad **or** scalloped potatoes.
3. Corinne is trying to decide **whether** to go to medical school **or** to go to law school.
4. The explosion destroyed **not only** the school, **but also** the neighboring library.

**Source:** [newton.uor.edu](http://newton.uor.edu/facultyfolder/rider/conjunctions.htm)

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