

CONJUNCTIONS

A conjunction is a grammatical unit/word that joins an idea within a sentence or joins parts of a sentence/statement.

Types of conjunctions

There are three types of conjunctions

- i. Coordinating conjunction.
- ii. Subordinating conjunction.
- iii. Correlative conjunction.

1. Coordinating conjunctions

A coordinating conjunction conjoins two words, phrases or clauses that are equal in terms of their status, i.e., they must be of the same word class (noun etc.), phrasal category or syntax function.

Types of coordinating conjunctions

There are **seven** coordinating conjunctions which are also known as FANBOYS.

- i. For
- ii. And
- iii. Nor
- iv. But
- v. Or
- vi. Yet
- vii. So

Examples:

- i. I would like a hamburger **or** a chicken burger for my dinner. (food)
- ii. She needed to be somewhere quiet, **so** she took her bag and went to the park.
- iii. My parents never had much money when I was growing up, **but** they managed somehow.
- iv. The mechanism of health **and** safety could be quite a blur. (well being)

Important: When a conjunction is being used to join two independent clauses, a **comma** is used to before the conjunction.

2. Subordinating conjunction

A subordinating conjunction is used to join a dependent and an independent clause. This type of conjunction can be used to show cause and effect relationships or a contrast between two clauses.

Some subordinating conjunctions

After, until, before, since, because, as, though, although, whereas, while, rather than, whether, as much as, whereas etc.

Examples:

- i. He took to the stage **as though** he had been preparing for this moment all his life.
- ii. **Because** he loved football, he refused to give up his dream of playing for Manchester United.
- iii. **Unless** we act now, we are doomed.
- iv. **While** everyone else was aging, I was getting younger.
- v. Ask her to say goodbye **before** she leaves.

Important: when the dependent clause starts the sentence, a **comma** is used to separate the two clauses.

3. Correlative conjunction

Correlative conjunctions are connecting words used in pairs. They show the relationship between two similar grammatical elements or ideas expressed in a sentence.

Some Correlative conjunction

- either/or
- neither/nor
- not only/but also
- both/and
- not/but
- whether/or
- just as/so
- the/the
- as/as
- as much/as
- no sooner/than
- rather/than

examples:

- i. I do not like **either** the blue ones **or** the red ones.
- ii. **Neither** my brother **nor** my sister live with my parents anymore.
- iii. I went **not only** to China **but** also to Hong Kong.
- iv. I'm not sure **whether** he will become a teacher **or** a doctor when he is older.
- v. The company deals in **both** hardware **and** software.