Name: _____

Date: _____

Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative Conjunctions are connectives that are always used in pairs. The most common correlative conjunctions are the following.



Either …or

It means "one or the other". It is used in making an affirmative choice.

- She prefers to eat *either* apples *or* oranges.

Neither … nor

It means "not one or the other". It is used in making negative choice.

- He drinks *neither* coffee *nor* tea.

Both … and

It is used in expressing addition.

- Lucy is *both* clever *and* polite.
- *Both* Tom *and* Jim are rich.

Not only … but also

It is used in expressing addition with emphasis.

- Jim is *not only* helpful *but also* cooperative.



A. Underline the correlative conjunctions in the following sentences.

1. Both the man and his wife came down the hall and went into the room.
2. Either you or I will have to move.
3. I like neither reading nor writing.
4. Your work is both neat and accurate.
5. The meal is not only delicious but also nutritious.
6. The boys and the girls not only like but also adore both the puppies and the kittens.
7. Canada is both beautiful and cold, but I like to go there.
8. I will wear either the red sweater or the black shirt.
9. I enjoyed both reading the story and seeing the movie.
10. Either I heard someone knocking, or I thought that I did.

B. Choose the correct answer.

1. When they found the lost child, he was _____ tired _____.
   a. neither … nor b. either … or c. not only … but also
2. _____ in the movie _____ in the book, the plot was outstanding.
   a. neither … nor b. either … or c. not only … but also
3. Sarah is neither my aunt _____ my cousin.
   a. and b. or c. nor d. but
4. Tina has worked for _____ public and private schools.
   a. either b. neither c. both d. not only
5. The story is _____ educational but also funny.
   a. either b. neither c. both d. not only



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Important things to remember

1. ***Both*** … ***and*** can't be used to join sentences like the other correlative conjunctions. It only joins words and word groups only.
   Both the man ***and*** his wife liked the house.
2. When ***neither*** ... ***nor*** or ***not only*** ... ***but*** also is used to join two sentences, the sentence which begins with neither, not only, or nor must have subject-verb inversion.
   Neither is he competent enough, ***nor*** does he accept help from others.
   Not only did he quit college, ***but also*** he squandered his money on trivial things.
3. Words, word groups, or sentences joined by any correlative conjunction must be grammatically identical in order to maintain a parallel structure.
   You should handle this parcel both attentively and with care. ☒
   You should handle this parcel ***both*** attentively ***and*** carefully. ☑



Let's have some practice

C. Join each of the following pairs of sentences. Make the necessary changes.

1. The old man is deaf. The bell is out of order. (either ... or)
   _____
2. Cats can be domesticated. Birds can be raised as pets. (not only ... but also)
   _____
3. Mr. Clark is an industrious manager. He is a man of responsibility. (both ... and)
   _____
4. The food was delicious. The price was fair. (neither ... nor)
   _____
5. Rosa drives recklessly. She is bragging about what she can do with her car. (not only ... but also)
   _____
6. The place is a long way off. We are lost. (either ... or)
   _____
7. She knows how to handle this affair. She accepts advice in this regard. (neither ... nor)
   _____
8. Last night, someone stole Lydia's watch. He stole her guitar too. (both ... and)
   _____
9. He goes by taxi. He refuses to travel at all. (either ... or)
   _____
10. The Oxen won the National Cup. They won the Asian Cup. (both ... and)
    _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS