

Conjunctions

A conjunction is a word used to join words or groups of words.

Example:

My mother **and** my grandmother live together.

There are three types of conjunctions:

- Coordinating conjunctions
- Correlative conjunctions
- Subordinating conjunctions

1. Coordinating conjunctions connect words or groups of words that all have an equal rank in the sentence. This means that each word or group of words link to the same verb or can form their own sentence. The most common coordinating conjunctions are **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so**.

Examples:

Words with equal rank

I like tea. I like hot chocolate. I don't like coffee.

→ These sentences are short and do not flow well. You can combine all of them with the use of a coordinating conjunction.

I like tea **and** hot chocolate, **but** I don't like coffee.

Groups of words with equal rank (independent clauses)

They wanted to try a great new restaurant. They went to Montreal's famous L'Express.

→ They wanted to try a great new restaurant, **so** they went to Montreal's famous L'Express.

When you are using a coordinating conjunction to make a list of two things, you do not need to use a comma.

Example:

My favourite colors are *green* **and** *yellow*.

If your list has three or more items, you must use a comma between each item listed (**including before the conjunction**).

Example:

I appreciate many different styles of music: *jazz, rock, blues, folk, country*, **and** *pop*.

2. Correlative conjunctions come in pairs. You cannot use one without the other. Some common correlative conjunction pairs are: **either + or**, **neither + nor**, **not only + but also**.

Example:

You're either in, or you're out.

You need to separate your two clauses with a comma.

3. Subordinating conjunctions link a subordinate clause to an independent clause. Remember that a subordinating clause has a subject and a predicate, but it is not a complete thought or sentences. It needs to be connected to an independent clause. This is achieved with subordinating conjunctions. Here is a list of some common subordinating conjunctions:

after, although, as, as if, as long as, as much as, as soon as, as though, because, before, by the time, even if, even though, if, in order that, in case, in the event that, now that, once, only, only if, provided that, since, so, supposing, that, than, though, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, wherever, whether or not, while

Example:

I have a good relationship with both of my brothers (independent clause)
they live far away (subordinate clause)

Though they live far away, I have a good relationship with both of my brothers.

I have a good relationship with both of my brothers, **even though** they live far away.

You can put your clauses in any order you like, but there needs to be a subordinating conjunction before your subordinate clause. You **usually** separate your clauses with a comma.

- A. For each sentence, I gave you two possible conjunctions to use. Choose the correct conjunction and write it on the line provided.

1. (Either – Both) _____ Gilbert or Daniel will take grandma to the restaurant.
2. Charles loves reggae, (since – whereas) _____ Ursula prefers rock.

3. (While – When) _____ you're out, can you get me some dill pickle chips?
 4. I don't like football (or – nor) _____ do I like soccer.
 5. You will not get your internet privileges back (until – as soon as) _____ you apologize to your sister.
 6. James left early, (but – and) _____ he missed his bus.
- B. On the line provided, complete the sentence with the correct pairing of correlative conjunctions.
1. We could either go the theatre _____ we could go dancing.
 2. Disney movies are entertaining not only for children, _____ for 29-year-old teachers.
 3. Pedro told Ariel that she could _____ sleep on the couch or in the guest room.
 4. _____ gold nor silver can be found in the secret cave.
 5. Jacques is _____ a jock nor a nerd.
 6. _____ is she beautiful, but she is also very intelligent.
- C. Is the sentence correctly punctuated? You know now know the rules regarding commas and conjunctions. If the sentence is correctly punctuated, write yes on the line provided. If not, write no.
1. After the rain goes there are rainbows. _____
 2. I'd love to go skating on the Canal, provided that the weather is nice.

 3. Carol wears a lot of blue, even though her favourite colour is yellow.

 4. Jamie brought Oreos, Twizzlers, and chips to the party. _____
 5. Annie is afraid of everything yet she still watches horror movies. _____