



Conjunctions connect words or groups of words to each other. There are four kinds of conjunctions: coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and conjunctive adverbs.

Coordinating Conjunctions

- **Coordinating conjunctions must connect the same parts of speech—two or more nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions, phrases, or clauses.**

A strong *but* warm breeze blew across the desert. (two adjectives: strong & warm)

Please print *or* type the information on the application form. (two verbs: print & type)

Her arguments were easy to ridicule *yet* hard to refute. (two phrases of equal importance: “easy to ridicule” & “hard to refute”)

Note how the two linked words in the following sentence are not the same part of speech:

He was angry *and* a dwarf.

This sentence is awkward because “angry” is an adjective and “dwarf” is a noun, thus they are incompatible.

- **The coordinating conjunctions are: and, but, or, yet, for, nor, so**

Correlative Conjunctions

- **Correlative conjunctions join equal elements (parts of speech or phrases).**

Both Bechtel *and* Kaiser submitted bids on the project. (two proper nouns: Betchel & Kaiser)

Maisha *not only* sent a card *but also* visited me in the hospital. (two action phrases: sent a card & visited me)

- **The correlative conjunctions come in pairs. They are: both...and, just as...so, not only...but also, either...or, neither...nor, whether...or**

Subordinating Conjunctions

- **Subordinating conjunctions introduce adverb clauses and signal the relationship between the adverb clause and another clause, usually an independent clause.**

An adverb clause answers the question how, when, or why. An independent clause is group of words that can stand on its own as a complete sentence. In the following sentence, the subordinating conjunction *when* signals a time relationship, letting us know that one event (the fire alarm going off) caused the other (the jumping).

I jumped *when* the fire alarm went off.

Subordinating Conjunctions (continued)

- The subordinating conjunctions are: after, although, as, as if, because, before, if, in order that, once, since, so that, than, though, unless, until, when, where, while

- Example sentences:

Once sales improve, the company will be able to pay its bills

My grandmother began traveling *after* she sold her house.

Conjunctive Adverbs

- Conjunctive adverbs connect two sentences. They explain how the first sentence relates to the second.

They can be considered both adverbs and conjunctions because they modify the second clause and connect the second clause to the first.

- The conjunctive adverbs are:

also	anyway	besides	certainly	finally	furthermore
however	incidentally	indeed	instead	likewise	meanwhile
moreover	namely	nevertheless	next	now	otherwise
similarly	still	then	therefore	thus	undoubtedly

- Conjunctive adverbs can be moved to different positions in a clause (part of a sentence).
- Independent clauses (parts of a sentence that could stand alone as a complete sentence) connected by a conjunctive adverb must be separated by a semicolon or a period, not just a comma.
- Examples:

The cider tasted bitter; *however*, each of us drank a tall glass of it.

The cider tasted bitter; each of us, *however*, drank a tall glass of it.

The cider tasted bitter. Each of us drank a tall glass of it, *however*.

The cider tasted bitter. *However*, each of us drank a tall glass of it.

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