

# Conjunctions



**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.