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.