

## Conjunctions: Definition, Types & Examples

### 1. Definition

A **conjunction** is a word used to **join words, phrases, or clauses**.

It helps connect ideas smoothly and shows the relationship between them, whether of **addition, contrast, cause, condition, or choice**.

### 2. Types of Conjunctions

#### A. Coordinating Conjunctions

These join **two equal parts** — words, phrases, or independent clauses.

They are often remembered using the acronym **FANBOYS**:

Conjunction	Function	Example Sentence
<b>F – for</b>	reason	I stayed home, <b>for</b> it was raining.
<b>A – and</b>	addition	She is smart <b>and</b> hardworking.
<b>N – nor</b>	negative addition	He doesn't smoke, <b>nor</b> does he drink.
<b>B – but</b>	contrast	He is rich, <b>but</b> unhappy.
<b>O – or</b>	choice	You can have tea <b>or</b> coffee.
<b>Y – yet</b>	contrast (like “but”)	It was late, <b>yet</b> she continued working.
<b>S – so</b>	result	It was cold, <b>so</b> we stayed inside.

#### B. Subordinating Conjunctions

These join a **dependent (subordinate) clause** to a **main (independent) clause**.

They show **time, reason, condition, contrast, purpose, or comparison**.

Function	Conjunctions	Example Sentences
<b>Time</b>	when, while, before, after, since, as soon as, until	I will call you <b>when</b> I reach home.
<b>Cause / Reason</b>	because, since, as	She left early <b>because</b> she was tired.
<b>Condition</b>	if, unless, provided that, in case	You can go <b>if</b> you finish your homework.
<b>Contrast / Concession</b>	although, though, even though, whereas, while	<b>Although</b> it was raining, they went out.
<b>Purpose</b>	so that, in order that	He spoke softly <b>so that</b> no one would hear.
<b>Comparison</b>	than, as...as	She is taller <b>than</b> her brother.
<b>Result / Consequence</b>	so...that, such...that	He was <b>so tired that</b> he fell asleep immediately.

### C. Correlative Conjunctions

These work **in pairs** to connect similar sentence elements. They must be used **together** correctly.

Correlative Pair	Example Sentence
<b>either...or</b>	You can <b>either</b> come now <b>or</b> later.
<b>neither...nor</b>	<b>Neither</b> the teacher <b>nor</b> the students were ready.
<b>both...and</b>	She is <b>both</b> talented <b>and</b> hardworking.
<b>not only...but also</b>	He <b>not only</b> sings <b>but also</b> composes music.
<b>whether...or</b>	I don't know <b>whether</b> he'll come <b>or</b> not.
<b>as...as</b>	He is <b>as tall as</b> his father.
<b>no sooner...than</b>	<b>No sooner</b> had I reached home <b>than</b> it started raining.

### 3. Common Errors with Conjunctions

Incorrect Sentence	Correct Sentence	Why?
<i>Although it was late, <b>but</b> she kept working.</i>	Although it was late, she kept working.	Never use "but" with "although."
<i>Either Ramesh <b>nor</b> Suresh came.</i>	Either Ramesh <b>or</b> Suresh came.	"Either" pairs with "or."
<i>Neither she <b>or</b> I went.</i>	Neither she <b>nor</b> I went.	"Neither" pairs with "nor."
<i>He is rich <b>and</b> he is miser.</i>	He is rich <b>but</b> he is a miser.	"But" fits contrast, not "and."
<i>Not only he is late <b>but also</b> careless.</i>	Not only <b>is he</b> late but also careless.	Inversion needed after "not only."

### 4. Practice Activity

Fill in the blanks with suitable conjunctions:

1. I didn't go to the party \_\_\_ I was not invited.
2. She sings well, \_\_\_ she dances beautifully.
3. \_\_\_ it rains, we will cancel the picnic.
4. He is not only intelligent \_\_\_ also humble.
5. I waited for him \_\_\_ he never came.

### 5. Quick Recap

Type	Examples	Used to Join
<b>Coordinating</b>	and, but, or, so, yet, for, nor	Two equal ideas
<b>Subordinating</b>	because, although, when, if, while	Main + dependent clause
<b>Correlative</b>	either...or, both...and, not only...but also	Paired ideas

