



WHAT IS A CONJUNCTION?

A conjunction is a word that connects elements of a sentence, such as words, phrases, or clauses. The three types of conjunctions are: subordinating conjunctions, coordinating conjunctions, and correlative conjunctions.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Subordinating conjunctions break sentences into word clusters called dependent (or subordinate) clauses. Dependent clauses cannot stand alone and must be connected to an independent clause to make a complex sentence. Subordinating conjunctions connect the dependent clause to the independent clause.

Everyone was happy **when** it stopped snowing.

Common Subordinating Clauses

After	If only	Unless
Although	In order that	Until
As	Now that	When
As if	Once	Whenever
As long as	Provided	Where
As though	Rather than	Whereas
Because	Since	Wherever
Before	So that	Whether
Even if	That	While
Even though	Though	Within
If	Without	Besides

Examples

We can go to the beach **when** it opens in June.
The baby always cries **whenever** his mother leaves the room.

Even if the movies are closed, we could still go to the mall./ We could still go to the mall **even if** the movies are closed.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Coordinating conjunctions are single words that connect similar parts of a sentence, such as adjectives, nouns, and clauses. The acronym **FANBOYS** is often used to refer to coordinating conjunctions.

For And Nor But Or Yet So

Examples

I am going on a cruise to Mexico, Jamaica, **and** Aruba.

I really want to go skiing, **but** there isn't enough snow on the slopes.

Meredith does not want an orange **nor** a grapefruit.

Danny would rather have a chocolate bar **or** hot cocoa than a granola bar.

Jenny could not find her notes last night, **so** she could not study for her test.

Her dress was blue **and** purple.

CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

Correlative conjunctions connect similar parts of a sentence, such as adjectives, nouns, and clauses. However, unlike coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions are combinations of coordinating conjunctions, not only a single word. They always come in pairs and link grammatically equivalent items.

As...as

Both...and

Either...or

Neither...nor

Not only...but also

Not...but

Whether...or

Examples

I like cotton candy **as much as** I like root beer floats.

**The correlative conjunctions link two nouns, cotton candy and root beer floats.*

Both the dog **and** the cat knocked over the trashcan.

**The correlative conjunctions link two nouns, the dog and the cat.*

Nadine wants to go to **either** Rutgers University **or** James Madison University.

**The correlative conjunctions link two nouns, RU and JMU.*

Neither Molly **nor** Emma want to see the new Batman movie.

**The correlative conjunctions connect two pronouns, Molly and Emma.*

To alleviate stress, you should **not only** identify the stressors **but also** find ways of coping with them.

**The correlative conjunctions link two clauses, identify the stressors and find ways of coping.*

***When using correlative conjunctions, be careful about parallel structure. Notice in the above examples, items of the same part of speech are parallel.**