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The Function of a Conjunction
Reviewing Conjunctions

Reading and Discussion

What is a **conjunction**? You might think of a conjunction as a joining word. It is a handy part of speech that works as a connector. It joins words, phrases, or clauses together.

Although conjunctions are similar to prepositions, they do a different kind of job. We can think them as sentence glue holding parts together. The most common conjunctions are:

1. **and**
2. **but**
3. **or**

- Soupy and Stella are the names of my cats.

We can also use conjunctions to join phrases together. A phrase is a group of words that does not make a complete sentence. It doesn't have a subject or a predicate, and it does not make a complete thought.

- Soupy the orange tabby **and** Stella the gray Manx are my cats.

Conjunctions can also join clauses together. What is a **clause**? There are two kinds :

1. **Independent Clauses.** These are similar to phrases with one exception. An independent clause does have a subject and a predicate. It makes a complete thought and could stand alone as a sentence.

- Soupy plays with his catnip mouse.

2. **Dependent Clauses.** These clauses do not make a complete thought. They cannot stand alone as a sentence. It is dependent on the independent clause to make sense.

- Whenever he's bored.

This is a dependent clause. It could not stand alone as a sentence. The word **whenever** is a conjunction. Let's join this clause to an independent clause to make a sentence.

- Soupy plays with his catnip mouse, whenever he's bored.

There are three main types of conjunctions:

1. Coordinating conjunctions join equal parts together: words with words, phrases with phrases, and clauses with clauses. They can even join two independent clauses together

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to make a compound sentence. A compound sentence is a sentence made from two independent thoughts. Each thought could stand alone and make one complete sentence. Here are the most common coordinating conjunctions:

- **and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet**

2. Subordinating conjunctions are used to join dependent clauses to independent clauses. They join unequal parts. Here are some common subordinating conjunctions:

- **after, that, if, where, wherever**

3. Correlative conjunctions are conjunctions used in pairs. For example:

- **either/or, both/and, just as/so**

There is a fourth kind of conjunction called an **adverbial conjunction** or **conjunctive adverb**, but there are only a few of these:

- **accordingly, consequently, hence, however, moreover, nevertheless, therefore**

The adverbial conjunction joins clauses of equal value, like a coordinating conjunction.

Remember: There are **three** main types of conjunctions and a **fourth** type known as an adverbial conjunction.

When punctuating a sentence with an adverbial conjunction, use a **semicolon** in front of the conjunction and a **comma** after the conjunction.

Tom and Huck forgot the oars; **consequently**, the raft floated away.

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Activities

Activity A: Let's Review Conjunctions

1. Conjunctions are _____ words.

2. There are _____ main types of conjunctions.

3. The three main types of conjunctions are: _____,

   _____ and _____.

4. A fourth type of conjunction is known as the _____conjunction.

5. An _____ clause makes a complete thought and could stand alone as a sentence.

6. A _____ clause could not stand alone and does not make a complete thought.

7. What are the three most common conjunctions? A)_____ b) _____ c) _____

Activity B: Write **T** if the statement is true. Write **F** if the statement is False.

1. _____ A phrase is the same as a clause.

2. _____ A subordinating conjunction joins two equal clauses.

3. _____ Coordinating conjunctions join equal parts in a sentence.

4. _____ The word 'and' is a conjunction.

5. _____ When using an adverbial conjunction, the semicolon comes before the conjunction.

6. _____ There are six types of conjunctions.

7. _____ A conjunction is a part of speech.

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Answer Key

Activity A

1. Conjunctions are joining words.

2. There are three main types of conjunctions.

3. The three main types of conjunctions are coordinating, subordinating, and correlative.

4. A fourth type of conjunction is known as the adverbial conjunction.

5. An independent clause makes a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence.

6. A dependent clause cannot stand alone and does not make a complete thought.

7. What are the three most common conjunctions? and, but and or.

Activity B

1. **F** A phrase is the same as a clause.

2. **F** A subordinating conjunction joins two equal clauses.

3. **T** Coordinating conjunctions join equal parts in a sentence.

4. **T** The word 'and' is a conjunction.

5. **T** When using an adverbial conjunction, the semicolon comes before the conjunction.

6. **F** There are six types of conjunctions.

7. **T** Conjunctions are a part of speech

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