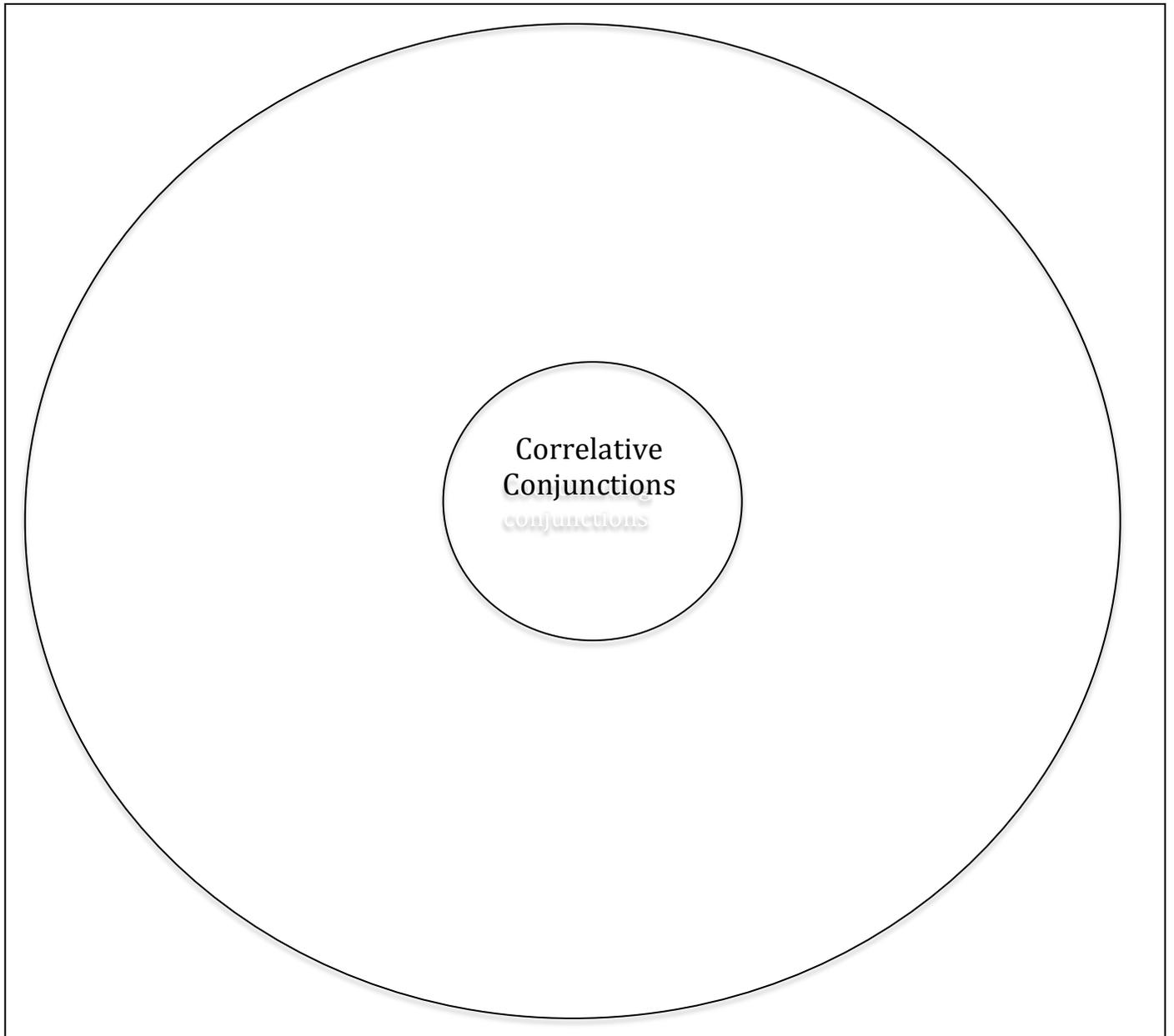


Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Comma Lesson #3 Part 3

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Class Period / Day \_\_\_\_\_

What are **correlative conjunctions**, and how do we use them?



## Definitions and Examples

**Correlative Conjunctions:** pairs of conjunctions that work together to join ideas

When using correlative conjunctions, make sure that what is on either side of the conjunctions is **equal**. For example: two nouns, two verbs, two adjectives, two phrases (of the same type), two clauses (of the same type). This is also known as **parallel structure**.

<b>Examples</b>	
as...so	both...and
either...or	hardly...when
if...then	neither...nor
no sooner...than	not...but
not only...but also	rather...or
rather...than	scarcely...when
whether...or	what with... and

How do we punctuate correlative conjunctions?

1. Correlative conjunctions **rarely** require commas.

*For example: **Either** the blue shirt **or** the red sweater will compliment your jeans.*

*I can't decide **whether** to have pizza **or** a cheeseburger.*

For these examples, also recall the rule about items in a series. Since there are only two items being listed, no comma is necessary.

2. When correlative conjunctions join together two independent clauses, a comma is needed.

*For example: **Either** your father will pick you up, **or** you'll get a ride home with a friend.*

3. Sometimes the way the sentence is constructed may require a comma that separates the correlative pair.

*For example: **Neither** the job as a cashier, which paid only minimum wage, **nor** the washroom attendant's job interested the woman with two PhDs.*

In this sentence, the dependent clause "which paid only minimum wage" interrupts the flow of the sentence and offers more information about the context of the sentence. This clause is set off by commas. As a result, commas also fall before the clause and after, immediately before the second correlative conjunction. Had that clause been omitted, no commas would be necessary.

3. The conjunction "but" is part of a correlative pair (not only...but), but is also a coordinating conjunction. Because of commas rules as they apply to coordinating conjunctions, this correlative pair requires commas in most cases.

*For example: **Not only** did Jeff need a textbook, **but** he **also** needed a laptop for class.*

In this sentence, the word "but" is joining together a dependent clause with an independent clause. Because of this, a comma is required before the conjunction. However, the rules of correlative conjunctions also apply since both "Not only" is paired with "but...also" even though the subject "he" falls in between.

## You try it!

Directions: Read each sentence carefully. Circle the correlative conjunctions. Add commas if necessary.

Also, identify the part of speech of the two equal parts being joined.

1. The company deals in both hardware and software.
2. I will eat either carrots or peas for dinner.
3. Natalie likes neither milk nor cream cake.
4. Do you care whether we have noodles or rice for dinner?
5. He not only studies hard but also works well.
6. It's such a tiny kitchen that I don't have to do much to keep it clean.
7. No sooner did he enter the room than he saw a snake.
8. I like both math and science.
9. I can't decide whether I should have popcorn for a snack or I should choose chips.
10. It's not sunny but rainy outside.

## Independent Practice

Directions: Combine the following sentences using correlative conjunctions

1. The presentation was interesting. It was also informative. (not only/but also)

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2. I was disappointed to hear that they don't offer a photography club. They also don't have a yearbook club. (neither/nor)

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3. However, we can take art as an elective. Or we can take music. (either/or)

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4. Charlotte loves films. Her brother loves sports. (just as/ so)

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5. Christine is a bookworm. So is Patrick. (both/and)

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6. The coach noticed that the entire team came to the car wash, not just one player. (not/but)

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7. Richard asked if Chloe would like to go shopping. He also wondered if she wanted to go to the beach. (rather/or)

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8. That is the case. I am not surprised at the result. (if/then)

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9. Mark put his umbrella away. It started raining. (no sooner/than)

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10. Diana walked in the door. She received an urgent call from the doctor. (scarcely/ when)

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11. Michelle likes to sing. She likes to play the drums more. (rather/than)

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12. Wendy wondered if the white paint was better than the pink. (whether/or)

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13. The girl finished reading. She fell asleep. (hardly/when)

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14. Midterms were approaching. The procrastinating teen could not sleep. (what with/ and all)

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