

Conjunctions

Conjunctions connect words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence. There are three types of conjunctions: *coordinating conjunctions*, *correlative conjunctions*, and *subordinating conjunctions*.

Coordinating Conjunctions

These conjunctions join elements of equal grammatical rank. These elements can be single words, phrases, or clauses. The common coordinating conjunctions are: *for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, and *so*. You can remember these with the acronym “FANBOYS.” In the following sentences, the coordinating conjunctions are printed in italics, and the elements being joined are underlined.

For Example:

John *and* Mary went to the movie.

I lost my ring at home *or* on the bus.

Some people enjoy ice cream, *but* others enjoy frozen yogurt.

Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions are coordinating conjunctions that are used in pairs. The most common correlative conjunctions are:

either ... or	neither ... nor	both ... and	as ... as
not only... but also	whether ... or	so ... as	

For Example:

Either obey the law *or* expect punishment

Some people want *neither* sympathy *nor* charity.

The leader is *both* confident *and* humble.

Not only is he a good student, *but* he is *also* an excellent athlete.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions join subordinate, or dependent, clauses to main, or independent, clauses. The following are some common subordinate conjunctions. A few of them can be used as prepositions or adverbs as well.

after	also	although	as if	as soon as
as though	as well as	because	before	besides
even if	even though	for	however	in order that
once	provided that	rather than	since	so that
that	though	unless	until	when
whenever	where	whereas	whether	while

For Example:

Because she was tired of living in an apartment, June bought a cottage in the country.

I will come over *after* the party has started.

Charlie has been depressed *since* he broke his foot.

Whenever a rainstorm approaches, I get a headache.