

# PARTS OF SPEECH

## Section 8. Conjunctions



When you see a word in **orange letters**, that means you can find out more about it by going to the part of the toolkit that is listed in the box at the bottom of the page.



### Information:

Conjunctions join words, phrases or clauses, and show a relationship between them.

The three types of conjunctions are Coordinating, Subordinating and Correlative conjunctions.

### A. Coordinating Conjunctions

Co-ordinating conjunctions can join

- words or **phrases**
- **independent clauses**

For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet (FANBOY) are co-ordinating conjunctions.

Examples:



1. Mark **and** Jacque read the newspaper. (*“And” joins two words.*)
2. Melissa went to Ottawa by car **but** Geoff went there by train. (*“But” joins two independent clauses.*)
3. Have you read **or** heard of a story written by Enid Blyton? (*“Or” joins two verbs, “have you read” and “(have you) heard of.”*)
4. I wanted to visit my sister in France, **so** I bought an airplane ticket. (*“So” joins two independent clauses.*)

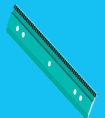
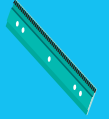


### Key Ideas

Conjunctions join words, phrases or clauses, and show a relationship between them.

Types of conjunctions:

- Coordinating
- Subordinating
- Correlative



## LOOK



Where to look for more information:

**Independent clause, dependent clause:** Language Toolkit Part Three, Sentence Structure, section 2

**Phrase:** Language Toolkit Part One, Parts of Speech, section 7





**Practice #1**

Complete these sentences by using coordinating conjunctions:

1. The men worked on the roof \_\_\_\_\_ they repaired the shingles.
2. The child is only three, \_\_\_\_\_ she can read simple stories and picture books.
3. Jamil wished to get front-row seats for the concert, \_\_\_\_\_ he bought expensive tickets.
4. The band practises on Monday, \_\_\_\_\_ the choir practises on Tuesday.

Check your answers.  
Other answers may be correct.

1. The men worked on the roof and they repaired the shingles.
2. The child is only three, yet (or but) she can read simple stories and picture books.
3. Jamil wished to get front-row seats for the concert so he bought expensive tickets.
4. The band practises on Monday, but (or and) the choir practises on Tuesday.

How did you do? \_\_\_\_\_ /4      Record your score on your chart.

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The following answers are for the practice activity on the next page.  
(Other answers may also be correct, but be sure you used a subordinating conjunction. Ask an English-speaking older person if you are not sure.)

1. Although she was afraid of falling into the water, she went on the boat-ride.
2. While Kwang played the guitar, the children sang.
3. Because it was the holiday weekend, the line to enter the theme park was very long.

How did you do? \_\_\_\_ /3      Record your score on your chart.

# PARTS OF SPEECH

## Section 8. Conjunctions



### B. Co-ordinating Conjunctions

Co-ordinating Conjunctions join **dependent clauses** with **independent clauses**.



**Example:**

Toni ate some chocolates. (Independent Clause)

She discovered that she had an allergy. (Independent Clause)

**Joined together:**

**After** Toni ate some chocolates, she discovered that she had an allergy.

*Using the co-ordinating conjunction “after” changes “Toni ate some chocolates” into a dependent clause.*

*A dependent clause cannot stand on its own. It needs to be joined to an independent clause. (In other words, the conjunction subordinates the first clause to the second one.)*

**Look up the word “subordinate” in your dictionary.**



### **Practice #2**

Combine the pairs of independent clauses below into a single sentence with the use of the most suitable subordinating conjunction from this list:

“although,” “after,” “because,” “unless,” “before,” “instead,” “why.”

1. a) She was afraid of falling into the water.      b) She went on the boat-ride.

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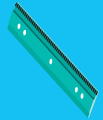
2. a) Kwang played the guitar.      b) The children sang.

3. a) It was the holiday weekend.      b) The line to enter the theme park was very long.

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**Answers on previous page.**



**2. Correlative conjunctions** join parallel elements in a sentence  
-- a clause to a clause, or a noun to a noun.

The correlative conjunctions are “either/or”, “neither/nor”, “not only/but also”, “both/and”, and “whether/or.”

It's a mistake to join elements that are not parallel (like a noun and a clause) with a correlative conjunction.



Examples:

**Correct:** John will pick up either pizza or hamburgers.  
(Either/or is used to join two nouns.)

**Incorrect:** Either John will pick up pizza, or hamburgers.  
(Either/or is wrongly used to join a clause and a noun.)



**Practice #3**

Complete these sentences using the most suitable correlative conjunctions from this list: “either/or”, “neither/nor”, “not only/but also”, “both/and”, or “whether/or.”

1. Since \_\_\_\_\_ Mila \_\_\_\_\_ Jacob studied for the exam, they both failed.
2. I am not sure \_\_\_\_\_ William \_\_\_\_\_ Richard gave me the book.
3. Tonight's show will feature \_\_\_\_\_ Josh Groban \_\_\_\_\_ Elton John.
4. Since one of them has to stay home, \_\_\_\_\_ Khalid's mother \_\_\_\_\_ his father will attend the meeting.

Check your work with the answers below. (Other answers may also be correct.)

1. Since neither Mila nor Jacob studied for the exam, they both failed.
2. I am not sure whether William or Richard gave me the book.
3. Tonight's music will feature two singers, both Josh Groban and Elton John.
4. Since one of them has to stay home, either Khalid's mother or his father will attend the meeting.

How did you do? \_\_\_/4      Record your score on your chart.

If you want to learn more about conjunctions, explore  
<http://www.arts.uottawa.ca/writcent/hypergrammar/conjunct.html>



## Bright Ideas for Bright Minds

Please remember these important points about conjunctions:

1. “**Like**” is a preposition. It starts a phrase that has a **noun** in it. It should not be used as a conjunction.



**Examples:** That girl swims like a fish.  
PlayStation 3 sold like hot cakes when it first came out.

Many people make a mistake and use “like” as a conjunction.

**Examples (incorrect):**

- Like I say, I hate homework.  
(“Say” is a verb, and like is a preposition that should only be used with a noun. The correct form would be “As I say...”)
  - Like I was telling Antonio, I’d rather play hockey than eat.  
(same explanation)
  - Like Kim was telling you, I’m still friends with her.  
(Correct: As Kim was telling you, ...)
2. “**As**” is a conjunction (usually).  
It should be used to join clauses (that have a **verb** in them).

**Example:** As I was telling Antonio, I’d rather play hockey than eat.

Now it’s time to go on to Part Two of this toolkit:

**Using Parts of Speech in Writing**

