



Conjunctions

What are Conjunctions?

Conjunctions are words that link related parts of a sentence.

Conjunctions That Introduce Subordinate Clauses

There are two kinds of words that introduce subordinate clauses:

1. Subordinating conjunctions

after	because	in order that	than	whenever
although	before	now that	though	where
as	even if	once	till	whereas
as if	even though	rather than	unless	wherever
as long as	if	since	until	while
as though	if only	so that	when	

2. Relative pronouns

which	what	who (whose, whom)
that	whatever	whoever (whomever)

Conjunctions That Create Compound Sentences

There are two kinds of conjunctions that create compound sentences:

1. Coordinating conjunctions

There are only seven words in English that can join two sentences together:

for
and
nor
but (Just remember "FANBOYS")
or
yet
so

Note: When one of these coordinating conjunctions joins two sentences, a comma must precede the conjunction.

2. Correlative conjunctions

Both . . . and

Ex: **Both** Tylenol **and** massage therapy can relieve stress headaches.

Neither . . . nor

Ex: The procedure requires **neither** heat application **nor** a cold compress.

Not only . . . but also

Ex: The migraine sufferer learns **not only** to recognize the causes of headaches **but also** to control those causes.

Either . . . or

Ex: **Either** the safety kit in the bathroom **or** the one in the kitchen will have the medicine you need.

Not . . . but

Ex: It is **not** a sales invoice **but** a shipping invoice.

(Note: Usage is divided on whether or not one should place a comma before *but* in structures such as this one. We will use a comma before *but* only when *but* joins two independent clauses.)

Whether . . . or

Ex: **Whether** you attend the meeting **or** not will determine your participation in the program.

As . . . as

Ex: She is **as** bright **as** her older sister.

Remember:

Conjunctions are words that introduce subordinate clauses or create compound sentences.