

# 6. CONJUNCTIONS AND INTERJECTIONS

## CONJUNCTIONS

A **conjunction** is used to join two sentences or two parts of a sentence to each other. There are four different kinds.

1. **Coordinating conjunctions:** These are used to join items that are of equal importance, especially independent clauses. A fun way to learn them is to remember the silly phrase

**f — a — n — b — o — y — s**

These letters stand for *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*.

**Examples:** No one left the fireworks early, *for* we all wanted to see the finale.  
 Jack *and* Jill went up the hill.  
 We could not go out to the movies, *nor* could we even watch television.  
 I found the camera *but* not the film.  
 Come along now *or* you will be left behind.  
 We promised not to giggle, *yet* he would not get up and dance.  
 Our money ran out, *so* we had to come home.

2. **Subordinating conjunctions:** You used subordinating conjunctions when you wrote noun clauses and adverb clauses. By placing a subordinating conjunction at the beginning of an independent clause (sentence) you created a subordinate clause, which could then be attached to another sentence or sentence part.

**Examples:** We both know *that* we haven't heard the last of it. (noun clause)  
*While* you were away, we wallpapered your room. (adverb clause)

As a reminder, the single-word subordinating conjunctions are *after, although, as, because, before, if, lest, once, since, than, that, though, till, unless, until, when(ever), where(ever), whereas, whether, while, and why*.

The subordinating conjunctions that consist of more than one word are *as if, as soon as, as though, even if, even though, in case, in order that, provided that, and so that*.

3. **Correlative conjunctions:** These are conjunctions which come in pairs: *both...and, either...or, neither...nor, not only... but (also), whether...or*.

There are two problem areas that arise when you use correlative conjunctions. First, the grammatical construction following both of them must be the same. This is called *parallelism*.

**Incorrect:** In Paris we *not only* saw the Eiffel Tower *but also* Notre Dame.  
**Correct:** In Paris we saw *not only* the Eiffel Tower *but also* Notre Dame.

Second, when you are using *either...or* or *neither...nor* with two subjects of the sentence, and one is singular and the other is plural, your verb should agree with the subject nearer the inflected verb (the verb that changes).

**Examples:** Does either *Bill* or his brothers own a car?  
Do either Bill's *brothers* or he own a car?

Neither the teacher nor the *students* have an idea where the maps went.  
Neither the students nor the *teacher* has an idea where the maps went.

4. **Conjunctive adverbs:** This unusual term is applied to words which join independent clauses and show a special relationship between the ideas expressed in each sentence. An important punctuation note is that they are preceded by a semicolon, and they will usually be followed by a comma.

Common conjunctive adverbs: *also, besides, consequently, for example, furthermore, however, in fact, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, nevertheless, otherwise, then, therefore, thus*

*Addition:* **Examples:** We'd love to come to the party; *however*, we won't be able to stay for long.  
*Contrast:* You stay here; *meanwhile*, I'll sneak around back.  
*Cause & Effect:* She had better mail the letters today; *otherwise*, they'll never get there in time.

Remember that all conjunctions join grammatical units; they themselves are neither modified nor modifiers.

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## INTERJECTIONS

We have tucked the last part of speech, the **interjection**, into this left-over half page to emphasize its special but limited role in your writing. By definition, an interjection is any word or phrase which is not grammatically related to the sentence but which adds a special mood, attitude, or feeling to the sentence. An interjection might show excitement, casualness, alarm, or intimacy.

*Well*, I don't know whether I should tell you.  
*Yikes!* That's hot!  
*Gee*, she's a better singer than I thought.

An interjection, as you might gather from the sentences above, is often heard in conversation. It implies an informal tone and therefore should be used with restraint in formal writing. There will be no exercises involving interjections.

# CONJUNCTIONS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISE A: types of conjunctions

Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with appropriate conjunctions. Be careful about which ones you choose, for in many cases only one or a few conjunctions will fit the logic and the grammar of the rest of the sentence. If you are uncertain about the meaning of a particular conjunction, look it up in a dictionary.

## COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

1. I'd love to visit Ireland \_\_\_\_\_ Scotland.
2. We don't have much, \_\_\_\_\_ we are happy.
3. She didn't know the number, \_\_\_\_\_ could she find a telephone book.
4. I can't leave the house, \_\_\_\_\_ maybe you can come over here.
5. I just put it in the oven, \_\_\_\_\_ you'll just have to wait.

## SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

6. \_\_\_\_\_ only twenty people came, we showed the movie anyway.
7. I delivered the check in person \_\_\_\_\_ it get lost in the mail.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ you scrape off all the old paint, the new paint will not last long.
9. We had to take a detour \_\_\_\_\_ the road was being repaired.
10. Everyone wished \_\_\_\_\_ the rain would stop.

## CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

11. \_\_\_\_\_ my mother \_\_\_\_\_ my father has ever been to Mexico.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ spaghetti \_\_\_\_\_ ziti will be fine with me.
13. I wanted to find out \_\_\_\_\_ where it was sold \_\_\_\_\_ how much it cost.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ you do it \_\_\_\_\_ I do it myself, it will get done.
15. I had to \_\_\_\_\_ wash the car \_\_\_\_\_ vacuum the interior.

## CONJUNCTIONS AND INTERJECTIONS

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### CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS

16. None of us knew our lines on Tuesday; \_\_\_\_\_ , the show opened successfully on Friday.
17. You really don't need a new stereo; \_\_\_\_\_ , you don't have the money.
18. Please help me with this laundry; \_\_\_\_\_ , we'll never finish on time.
19. I can start work on your car today; \_\_\_\_\_ , the parts won't be in until Wednesday.
20. All the public transportation workers were on strike; \_\_\_\_\_ , we had to walk.

### EXERCISE B: reading for conjunctions

Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Now read in a good book and find one example of each type of conjunction. Especially try to find an interesting use of the coordinating conjunction. Write your choices below.

You will probably find a sentence containing a conjunctive adverb more easily in a work of nonfiction than in a work of fiction. Make sure that it is preceded by a semicolon; otherwise, it is only an adverb, not a conjunctive adverb.

(coordinating) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(subordinating) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(correlative) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(conjunctive adverb) \_\_\_\_\_

Book title and author: \_\_\_\_\_



# CONJUNCTIONS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISE C: conjunctions in sentences

Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_ Creativity \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Fill in the spaces with the appropriate grammatical units as directed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ , nor  
(independent clause)

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
(independent clause)

2. Both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(proper noun) (proper noun)

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
(finish the sentence)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ ; consequently,  
(independent clause)

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
(independent clause)

4. Even though \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
(finish the adverb clause)

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
(independent clause)

5. On our vacation we not only \_\_\_\_\_ but also  
(transitive verb + direct object)

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
(transitive verb + direct object)

6. \_\_\_\_\_ either by  
(independent clause)

\_\_\_\_\_ or by \_\_\_\_\_  
(gerund phrase) (gerund phrase)

\_\_\_\_\_ .

7. Whenever \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
(finish the adverb clause)

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
(independent clause)

8. The government official announced both that \_\_\_\_\_  
(finish the noun clause)

\_\_\_\_\_ .

and that \_\_\_\_\_  
(finish the noun clause)

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