

ENGLISH

✚ Conjunctions (linking words)

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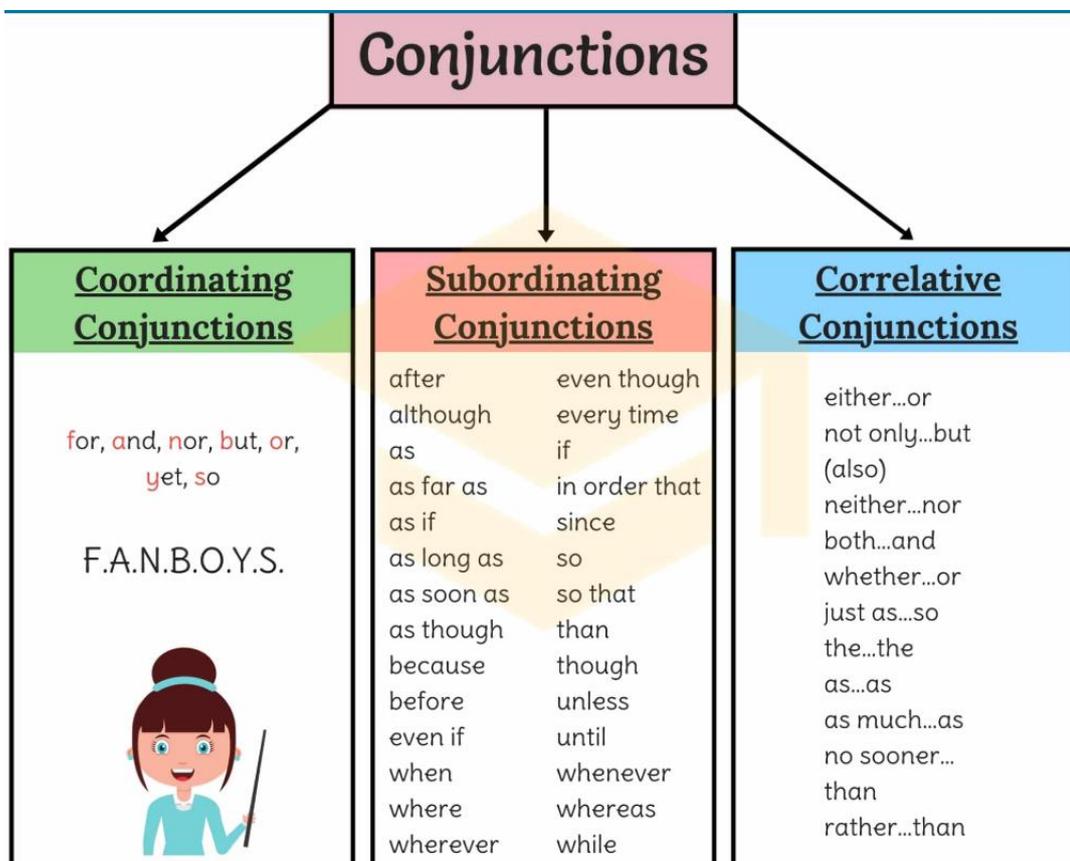
▪ What is a conjunction?

In grammar, an English conjunction is a part of speech that connects two words, phrases or clauses together. You can use a conjunction to link words, phrases, and clauses, as in the following examples:

- *The park is empty now, **but** it will be filled with children after school.*
- *You can stay on the bus **until** you reach London.*

▪ Types of conjunctions

There are three types of conjunctions: **Coordinating Conjunctions**, **Subordinating Conjunctions** and **Correlative Conjunctions**.



1. Coordinating Conjunctions

a coordinating conjunction “**for**,” “**and**,” “**nor**,” “**but**,” “**or**,” “**yet**” or “**so**” is used to join individual words, phrases, and independent clauses.

An easy way to remember these six conjunctions is to think of the word **FANBOYS**. Each of the letters in this somewhat unlikely word is the first letter of one of the coordinating conjunctions.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS	
CONJUNCTION	EXAMPLE
For	We listened eagerly, for he brought news of our families.
And	She didn't speak to anyone, and nobody spoke to her.
Nor	I don't expect children to be rude, nor do I expect to be disobeyed.
But	They rushed to the hospital, but they were too late.
Or	I will go shopping, or I will go camping.
Yet	Kelly was a convicted criminal, yet many people admired him.
So	I was feeling hungry, so I made myself a sandwich.

2. Subordinating Conjunctions

A subordinating conjunction is a word which joins together a dependent (subordinate) clause and an independent clause. An independent clause is essentially a clause that can exist by itself in a given sentence which means that it doesn't need any additional information to exist.

A subordinate or dependent clause is one which cannot exist by itself as a sentence and only provides some additional information to the main clause. Sentences where there is an independent and at least one dependent clause, it is known as a complex sentence. Subordinating conjunctions are therefore found in complex sentences where they try to join or link the clauses together.

Common subordinating conjunctions are: **Than, rather than, whether, as much as, whereas, that, whatever, which, whichever, after, as soon as, as long as, before, by the time, now that, once, since, till, until, when, whenever, while, though,**

although, even though, who, whoever, whom, whomever, whose, where, wherever, if, only if, unless, provided that, assuming that, even if, in case (that), lest, how, as though, as if, because, since, so that, in order (that), that, as ...

Subordinating Conjunctions Examples

The subordinating conjunctions are many in number and we use them regularly in our daily [communication](#) without knowing. Subordinating conjunctions have different properties and they can be grouped accordingly:

- Those which show cause and effect (that show reason)
- Those which show the significance of time or place
- Those which show condition, comparison, concession, manner, relative pronouns and adjectives.

Some examples are given below:

- *I am not going to work because I am sick.*
- *I will not release her payment unless she completes her work.*
- *The government might agree to their demands provided they follow the rules.*
- *Although she is petite, she has a lot of strength.*
- ***Whenever** his wife was out working, he would take care of the house.*
- ***As long as** she lived, she took care of the orphanage.*
- *I won't be back in Mumbai **until** early next week.*
- *The child ran to her mother **as soon as** she saw her.*

Note:

When subordinating conjunctions are used in the middle of a sentence, they are not preceded by a [comma](#). If you compare this with coordinating conjunctions, we realise that it is just the opposite of using a comma with coordinating conjunctions. It is similar to when conjunctions are used to join two independent clauses.

When a subordinate clause begins a sentence, the entire clause is followed by a comma. But, the subordinating conjunction itself is not followed by a comma.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Comparison

Than
Rather than
Whether
As much as
Whereas

Time

After
As soon as
Until
Whenever
Now that

Concession

Though
Although
Even though



Relative Pronouns

Who
Whoever
Whom
Whomever
Whose

Reason

Because
Since
So that
In order (to)
As

Condition

If
Only if
Unless
Provided that
Assuming that

Place

Where
Wherever



Relative Adjectives

That
Whatever
Which
Whichever

Manner

How
As though
As if



3. Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions which work together to coordinate two items. They always appear in pairs.

There are many different pairs of correlative conjunctions:

- *either...or*
- *not only...but (also)*
- *neither...nor*
- *both...and*
- *whether...or*
- *just as...so*
- *the...the*
- *as...as*
- *as much...as*
- *no sooner...than*
- *rather...than*

Correlative conjunctions consist simply of a coordinating conjunction linked to an adjective or adverb.

CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS	
CONJUNCTION	EXAMPLE
Both...and	The company deals in both hardware and software.
Either...or	I will eat either carrots or peas for dinner.
Neither...nor	Natalie, likes neither milk nor cream cake.
Whether...or	Do you care whether we have noodles or rice for dinner?
Not only...but (also)	He not only studies hard but also works well.
Such...that	It's such a tiny kitchen that I don't have to do much to keep it clean.
Scarcely...when	Scarcely had she entered the room when the phone rang.
No sooner...than	No sooner did he enter the room than he saw a snake.