

CONJUNCTIONS

A conjunction is any word that connects other words within a sentence. There are four types of conjunctions: coordinating conjunctions, adverbial conjunctions, correlative conjunctions, and subordinating conjunctions, and each type is used differently within a sentence. By understanding the types of conjunctions and their functions in the English language, you can improve your overall grammar and sentence structure.

Definition & Examples of Coordinate Conjunctions

Coordinate conjunctions are the ones you likely had to learn in your early English classes. They are used with a comma to create compound sentences. Remember the list of seven coordinating conjunctions with the mnemonic word device: BOYSFAN (or FANBOYS).

- But
- Or
- Yet
- So
- For
- And
- Not

Definition & Examples of Adverbial Conjunctions

Adverbial conjunctions are used with a semicolon and a comma to create compound sentences. Many of the adverbs in English can be used as adverbial conjunctions. Here are some examples:

- Additionally
- Consequently
- Conversely
- Furthermore
- However
- Moreover
- Subsequently

Definition & Examples of Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that cannot stand by themselves. A set of correlative conjunctions is usually located within the same sentence (which actually makes both clauses dependent), and if not, each one from the pair is located in separate but closely related sentences. The five correlative conjunctions include:

- Both, and
- Either, or
- Neither, nor
- If, then
- Not only, but also

Definition & Examples of Subordinate Conjunctions

Subordinate conjunctions are found at the beginning of a dependent clause, which consists of words that contain both subjects and verbs but cannot stand as an independent clause (sentence). One way to remember a subordinate conjunction's purpose is to remember that dependent clauses are also known as subordinate clauses. While there are numerous subordinating conjunctions, the most common ones include:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| • After | • In order that | • Until |
| • Although | • In that | • When |
| • As if | • Now that | • Whenever |
| • As in | • Once | • Wherever |
| • As long as | • Providing that | • Whether |
| • As much as | • Since | • While |
| • Assuming that | • So long as | |
| • Because | • So that | |
| • Before | • Then | |
| • Even though | • That | |
| • How | • Though | |
| • If | • Unless | |