CONJUNCTIONS

A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF CONJUNCTIONS

A conjunction is a word that links words, phrases, or clauses. There are three types of conjunctions: ***coordinating***conjunctions, ***correlative*** conjunctions, and ***subordinating***conjunctions. Coordinating conjunctions may join single words, or they may join groups of words, but they must always join similar elements: e.g. subject+subject, verb phrase+verb phrase, sentence+sentence.

When a **coordinating conjunction** is used to join elements, the element becomes a **compound element**.

**Correlative conjunctions** also connect sentence elements of the same kind: however, unlike coordinating conjunctions, **correlative conjunctions are always used in pairs.**

**Subordinating conjunctions,** the largest class of conjunctions, connect subordinate clauses to a main clause. These conjunctions **are adverbs used as conjunctions.**

The following tables show examples of the various types of conjunctions and some sample sentences using the conjunctions. Since coordinating conjunctions and correlative conjunctions are closed sets of words, all are included in the list. Subordinating conjunctions are a larger class of words; therefore, only a few of the more common ones are included in this list.

**COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **F** | **A** | **N** | **B** | **O** | **Y** | **S** |
| **for** | **and** | **nor** | **but** | **or** | **yet** | **so** |

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. Remember, when using a conjunction to join two sentences, **use a comma before the conjunction.**

**Examples and Sentences - Coordinating Conjunctions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Conjunction** | **What Is Linked** | **Sample Sentences** |
| and | noun phrase + noun phrase | We have tickets for the symphony **and** the opera. |
| but | Sentence + sentence | The orchestra rehearses on Tuesday, **but** the chorus rehearses on Wednesday. |
| or | Verb + verb | Have you seen **or** heard the opera by Scott Joplin? |
| so | Sentence + sentence | I wanted to sit in the front of the balcony, **so** I ordered my tickets early. |

**CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **both...and** | **not only...but also** | **either...or** | **neither...nor** | **whether...or** |

Remember, correlative conjunctions are always used in pairs. They join similar elements. When joining singular and plural subjects, the subject closest to the verb determines whether the verb is singular or plural.

**Examples And Sentences - Correlative Conjunctions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Conjunctions** | **What Is Linked** | **Sample Sentence** |
| both...and | Subject + subject | **Both** my sister **and** my brother play the piano. |
| either...or | Noun + noun | Tonight's program is **either** Mozart **or** Beethoven. |
| neither...nor | Subject + subject | **Neither** the orchestra **nor** the chorus was able to overcome the terrible acoustics in the church |
| not only...but also | Sentence + sentence | **Not only** does Sue raise money for the symphony, **but** she **also** ushers at all of their concerts. |

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Cause + Effect** | **Opposition** | **Condition** |
| **after** | **because** | **although** | **if** |
| **before** | **since** | **though** | **unless** |
| **when** | **now that** | **even though** | **only if** |
| **while** | **as** | **whereas** | **whether or not** |
| **since** | **in order that** | **while** | **even if** |
| **until** | **so** |  | **in case (that)** |

Subordinating conjunctions, (subordinators) are most important in creating subordinating clauses or dependent clauses. These adverbs that act like conjunctions are placed at the front of the clause. The dependent clause can come either before or after the main clause. Subordinators are usually a single word, but there are also a number of multi-word subordinators that function like a single subordinating conjunction. They can be classified according to their use in regard to time, cause and effect, opposition, or condition. Remember, put a comma at the end of the dependent phrase when it comes before the main clause.

**Examples And Sentences - Subordinating Conjunctions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conjunction** | **Sample Sentence** |
| after | We are going out to eat **after we go to** the concert. |
| since | **Since** we have lived in Atlanta, we have gone to every exhibit at the High Museum. |
| while | **While** I was waiting in line for the Matisse Exhibit, I ate my lunch. |
| although | **Although**the line was long and the wait over two hours, the exhibit was well worth it |
| even if | **Even if**you have already bought your ticket, you will still need to wait in line. |
| because | I love Matisse's works **because** he uses color so brilliantly. |



**Exercise 1 Underline each conjunction. Write whether it joins a compound subject (*subj.*), a compound predicate (*pred.*), a compound object of a preposition (*obj.*), or a compound sentence (*sent.*).**

