





Conjunctions

Conjunctions are parts of speech that connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. There are three kinds of conjunctions: coordinating, paired, and subordinating.



Coordinating Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions connect words or phrases that serve the same grammatical purpose in a sentence. There are seven main coordinating conjunctions in English, which form the acronym FANBOYS:

F: for: The teachers were frustrated, for the school had cut funding for all enrichment programs.*

A: and: In this course, I will write a literature review, a case study, and a final paper.**

N: nor: The students did not complete their homework, nor did they pass the test.

B: but: The study is several years old but still valuable to this study.

O: or: At the end of the class, the students can choose to write an essay or take a test.

Y: yet: The patient complained of chronic pain, yet she refused treatment.

S: so: I have only been a nurse for one year, so I have little experience with paper charting.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions join a subordinate clause to a main clause and establishes a relationship between the two. There are many subordinating clauses, but here are some of the most common:

After, although, as much as/as soon as/as long as, as though, because, before, how, if, in order to/in order that, once, since, than, that, though, unless, until, when/whenever, where/wherever, whether, while



There are two ways to structure a sentence using a subordinating conjunction:

1. Main clause + subordinate clause
The teacher administered the test after giving instructions.

2. Subordinate clause + , + main clause After giving instructions, the teacher administered the test.



Paired Conjunctions

Paired conjunctions consist of two words or phrases that help make a point or establish alternatives. Although paired conjunctions can be helpful in structuring a sentence, they can also make sentences wordier than necessary, so use these conjunctions sparingly.

Both And

Both the students **and** the teachers were satisfied with the pilot program.

Note: When two subjects are connected by "both...and," use a plural verb (such as "are" or "were").

Not only But also

Students who did not complete the assignment received not only a poor grade but also a warning from the teacher.

Not only did the student include full sentences from the source without using quotation marks, but he also failed to properly cite paraphrased material.

Neither nor Either or Students who did not complete the project received neither praise nor rewards. Either the students were unprepared or the assessment was poorly written.