



## Coordination, Correlation, and Subordination

A conjunction is a word or a group of words used to connect words, phrases, or clauses. The precise use of conjunctions is a matter of importance in effective writing.

α Coordinating conjunctions connect words, phrases, or clauses of equal grammatical rank. Here is the complete list of coordinating conjunctions – there are no others. To help you remember them, think of “fanboys”: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So.

For is used to express causal relation – one element is a cause of the other.

He ran away, for he was frightened by what he saw.

And is used to join elements in order to stress what they have in common.

He saw a spider, a bat, and a ghost.

Nor is used when the alternative is negative.

He did not stop running, nor did he look back over his shoulder.

But is used to emphasise the difference between the elements it joins.

He felt foolish, but he couldn't help it.

Or is used to indicate an alternative.

He must stay out of haunted houses, or he will have a stroke.

Yet is used to emphasize the difference between the elements it joins. Unlike but, it also suggests that the second element is something that might not ordinarily be expected.

He was warned that the house was haunted, yet he went in anyway.

So suggests a purpose – the second element is needed because of the first.

He was curious, so he paid no heed to the warnings.

α Correlative conjunctions emphasise the relationship set up by coordinating conjunctions.

The principal correlatives are: *both ... and, either ... or, neither ... nor, not only ... but also,* and *whether ... or*. The elements joined by correlatives must be alike in structure, or the force of the correlative will be lost.

Incorrect: They are not only tired, but they are disgusted.

Correct: Not only are they tired, but they are also disgusted.

In the first example, an adjective is joined with an independent clause. In the second example, two independent clauses are joined.

► Subordinating conjunctions connect a subordinate clause to the main clause. The following are some of the more common subordinate conjunctions:

because, in that, since	indicates cause
although, except, though, while	indicates concession
if, once, unless, whether	indicates condition
as, as if, as though	indicates manner
whence, where, wherever	indicates place or direction
in order that, so, so that, that	indicates purpose
after, as long as, as soon as, before, since, when	indicates time

► Conjunctive adverbs differ from ordinary grammatical connectives because they function as devices for logical transition between sentences, or even between paragraphs.

Conjunctive adverbs require a semicolon, or a period, before them and a comma after them. The following are some of the more common conjunctive adverbs:

also, besides, furthermore, likewise, moreover	indicates addition
likewise, similarly	indicates comparison
conversely, however, otherwise, nevertheless, still	indicates contrast
accordingly, consequently, hence,	indicates result

subsequently, therefore, thus