

Quick and Handy Grammar Review: Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that join parts of the sentence. They may join two similar parts of speech, such as two adjectives, two verbs, or two nouns. Conjunctions may also connect two clauses. *Coordinating conjunctions* unite two independent clauses and *subordinating conjunctions* join one dependent clause and one independent clause.

Coordinating Conjunctions:

| and | but | or |
|-----|-----|-----|
| yet | for | nor |
| so | | |

To recall the seven coordinating conjunctions, remember the word FANBOYS [For And Nor But Or Yet So].

Notes:

- Do not begin a sentence with the coordinating conjunctions *and*, *but*, *so*, or *yet*.
- *For* is poetic. It means *because*. *For* is rarely used as a conjunction in modern English.
- *Nor*, used by itself, usually begins a sentence. It is usually followed by *do* or *does* and then the subject. [e.g., *I don't like opera. Nor do I like chamber music.*]
- As a conjunction, *yet* means *but*. It is used more often in writing than in speaking.
- Use a comma before the conjunction when 2 independent clauses are joined. You don't need to use a comma if those clauses are short or if they have the same subject.

Subordinating Conjunctions:

These words are often called *subordinators*. They are used at the beginning of a dependent clause in a complex sentence. Note that the order of the clauses doesn't matter, but there is a comma when the dependent clause is first in the sentence (Subordinating conjunction S V , S V) and no comma when the independent clause is first (S V Subordinating conjunction S V).

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------|
| after | if | though |
| although | if only | till |
| as | in order that | unless |
| as if | now that | until |
| as long as | once | when |
| as though | rather than | whenever |
| because | since | where |
| before | so that | whereas |
| even if | than | wherever |
| even though | that | while |

Correlative Conjunctions:

Some conjunctions are used in pairs. They use parallel structure, which means that the same grammatical forms appear on each side of the conjunction.

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

Examples of correlative conjunctions:

- **Whether** you *earn* an A **or** *get* a lower grade, do your best. [Each conjunction is followed by a verb]
- **Both** *John* **and** *Bill* are excellent tennis players. [Each conjunction is followed by a noun]
- **Neither** the *professor* **nor** the *students* understood the problem. [Each conjunction is followed by a noun]
- I **not only** *lost* the game **but also** *hurt* my ankle. [Each conjunction is followed by a verb]
- Professor Jenkins is **not only** *patient*, **but also** *stimulating*. [Each conjunction is followed by an adjective]
- Hector did **not** *lose* money at the casino **but** he *did not win* any either. [Each conjunction is followed by a verb]
- Barbara is **as** tall **as** Mary. [Two nouns are compared]

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| in order that | as long as | whenever | |
| because | where | than | that |
| while | before | unless | |

Exercise 3:

Fill in the blank using one of the subordinating conjunctions from the list. Use each word only once.

1. I will never go to that restaurant again _____ I live.
2. _____ Jose needs help, he calls his two brothers.
3. _____ Sheldon works for the post office, he never works Sundays.
4. I would rather read a book _____ watch a stupid television program.
5. _____ Roger goes to Miami, he will buy a new bathing suit.
6. _____ travelers have time to pass through security, it is recommended that they arrive two hours before their flight.
7. I will not go out with you _____ you promise not to smoke
8. _____ Maria is an avid jogger, her sister Julia prefers just to sit on the couch.
9. I do not believe _____ Hector's father is a doctor.
10. Maryam loves the city _____ she now lives.



| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| as if | if only | though | till |
| so that | since | whereas | as |
| wherever | now that | | |

Exercise 4:

Fill in the blank using one of the subordinating conjunctions from the list. Use each word only once.

1. Bill will not pay \$500 for a suit _____ he can certainly afford it.
2. _____ Juan is a very hard worker, his brother Luis is very lazy.
3. _____ Samantha moved to Boston, she has been very happy.
4. I have prepared a summary chart _____ you can understand conjunctions better.
5. _____ he was driving to work yesterday, Jason got a ticket for speeding.
6. _____ you had called me, I could have helped you.
7. _____ Henry has a job, he can pay his share of the rent.
8. David walks around _____ he is the president of the company.
9. I will stay with you _____ hell freezes over.
10. My new puppy follows me _____ I go.



| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| rather than | unless | before | |
| once | while | even if | because |
| until | if | even though | |

Exercise 5:

Fill in the blank using one of the subordinating conjunctions from the list. Use each word only once.

1. I would not see that movie _____ you gave me \$100.
2. _____ it is raining so hard, the game was cancelled.
3. _____ Sam was driving to school yesterday, he saw an accident.
4. I will love you _____ the end of time.
5. _____ he is the manager's son, he might still be fired because his work is so bad.
6. _____ you need help, just call me.
7. _____ Hank gets settled in, we will visit him.
8. I would like to drive _____ take the bus.
9. I cannot go to that expensive restaurant _____ you pay.
10. Leslie always drinks a cup of hot chocolate to relax her _____ she goes to sleep.



Exercise 6:

Sentence Stems. Write conclusions to the following sentences.

1. I don't like broccoli, but _____.

2. Victoria plays the piano, and _____.

3. Because it is so cold, _____.

4. I really love the music of Beethoven and _____.

5. Maya always studies hard for her exams, so _____.

6. Lester works for an electronics store, so _____.

7. Harvey is one of the best players on the team, but _____.

8. Toronto is a very safe city, and _____.

9. I don't like your cooking. Nor do I _____.

10. We will win the war, for we _____.



Exercise 9:

Combine the two sentences into one using the conjunction in parentheses.

1. My sister has many friends. She has not found a special one. [while]

2. John is only eight years old. He can play the piano very well. [although]

3. Alma ate the chicken and rice. She also ate two hamburgers. [not only ... but also]

4. Ned is the manager of the bank. He doesn't make a high salary. [though]

5. Gino ate breakfast. Then he washed the dishes. [after]

6. Barbara arrived at home at eight. Then she called her sister. [once]

7. Bill will work late. In fact, he will work until 9:00 p.m. [until]

8. I will never go to that restaurant again. I will live a long time. [as long as]

9. Hal studied a lot. He still got a very low grade. [even though]

10. Everyone likes Hanna. She is patient and relaxed. [because]
