

Conjunction



Introduction

Definition: A conjunction is that part of speech (word) which is used to join two independent words or sentences to make a Compound or Complex Sentence.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ Ayush is gambling with his health **because** he has been smoking far too long
- ❖ **Neither** the basketball team **nor** the football team is doing well.
- ❖ He goes home **because** he is ill.
- ❖ **Whether** you stay or go is your decision



List of some commonly used Conjunctions

And	But	Since	When	Either — or
Although	Because	Till	While	Neither—nor
As well as	If	Until	Unless	Therefore
As	Or	Still	Yet	Before



Types of Conjunctions



Coordinating Conjunction

A conjunction used to join two independent statements or two statements of equal rank or importance is called a coordinating conjunction. (e.g. and, but, for, yet, so, etc.)

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ The sun was shining **and** a hot wind was blowing.
- ❖ There was noise around me **but** I was not disturbed.

In the above given sentences, the words, '**and**' and '**but**' are coordinating conjunctions.



Coordinating Conjunctions are of Four Types

(i) Conjunctions that merely add one statement or fact to another.

And, both — and, as well as, no less than, not only — but also are common conjunctions of this type:

And

- ❖ The weather was fine **and** the sea was calm.
 - ❖ (The weather was fine. The sea was calm) .
 - ❖ The door was open **and** my things were lying scattered.
- (The door was open. My things were lying scattered)

Both — and

- ❖ She is **both** intelligent **and** hard working.
- (She is intelligent. She is hard working)

- ❖ Kajol gave me **both** books and notes.
(Kajol gave books. Kajol gave me notes.)

As well as

- ❖ He as **well as** his father is dishonest.
(He is dishonest. His father is dishonest.)
- ❖ The captain **as well as** the crew was drowned.
(The captain was drowned. The crew was drowned.)

No less than

- ❖ He is guilty **no less than** his brother.
(His brother is guilty. He is equally guilty.)
- ❖ I am **no less** grateful to your father **than** to you.
(I am grateful to you. I am equally grateful to your father.)

Not only — but also

- ❖ He was **not only** my relative **but also** a very close friend.
(He was my relative. He was my close friend.)
 - ❖ The train was **not only** late **but also** fully packed.
(The train was late. The train was fully packed.)
- (ii) Conjunctions that express opposition or contrast between two statements.
But, still, yet, nevertheless, whereas, while, only are conjunctions of this type.

But

- ❖ The train was fully packed **but** we got seats easily.
(The train was fully packed. We got seats easily)
- ❖ The earthquake was quite severe **but** the temple was not damaged.
(The earthquake was severe. The temple was not damaged.)

Still, yet

- ❖ Steve is quite rich, **still** he is not contented.
- ❖ Steve is quite rich, **yet** he is not contented.
(Steve is quite rich. He is not contented)
- ❖ I was angry, **still** I did not scold him.
- ❖ I was angry, **yet** I did not scold him.

Nevertheless

- ❖ We were very tired; **nevertheless**, we continued the work.
(We were very tired. We continued the work)
- ❖ I am hard up; **nevertheless**, I will give you some money.

Whereas, while

- ❖ Wise men prefer quality, **whereas (or while)** fools prefer quantity.
(Wise men prefer quality. Fools prefer quantity.)
- ❖ Rice needs plenty of water to grow, **whereas (or while)** wheat needs comparatively less water.

(iii) Conjunctions that express a choice between two alternatives or, otherwise, else, either — or, neither— nor, are common conjunctions of this type.

Or

- ❖ You must apologise, **or** you will be expelled from the school.
(You must apologise. You will be expelled from the school.)
- ❖ You must be bold, **or** you will not be able to face the world.
(You must be bold, or you will not be able to face the world.)

Either — or

- ❖ **Either** attend to your lesson or leave the class.
(Attend to your lesson. Leave the class.)
- ❖ We can **either** walk down or take a bus.
(We can walk down. We can take a bus.)

Neither — nor

- ❖ He is **neither** lazy **nor** careless.
(He is not lazy. He is not careless.)
- ❖ Kaushik **neither** looks after the house **nor** takes up a job.
(Kaushik does not look after the house. Kaushik does not take up a job.)

Otherwise, else

- ❖ Hurryup, **otherwise** you will be late for the school.
 - ❖ Hurryup, **else** you will be late for the school.
(Hurry up. You will be late for the school)
- (iv) Conjunction by which one statement or fact is inferred from another.
For, so, therefore are common conjunctions of this type.

For

- ❖ She will rise in life, **for** she is sincere and hardworking.
- ❖ Let me take leave of you, **for** I am getting late.

So, therefore

- ❖ He did not report in time, **so** he was not selected.
- ❖ He did not report in time, **therefore** he was not selected.
- ❖ We missed the bus, **so** we took a taxi.
- ❖ We missed the bus, **therefore** we took a taxi.



Subordinate Conjunction

A conjunction used to join two statements, one of which is dependent on the other is called a Subordinating Conjunctions. (e.g. after, till, before, unless, that (not as a relative pronoun), because, although, though, (sometimes these are also adverbs) until, than, as if, if, etc.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ We continued to work although we were getting late. In this sentence, although we were getting late is a subordinate clause, for it cannot stand on its own. Therefore, although is a subordinating conjunction. Subordinating conjunctions may be classified according to their meaning.
- (A) Subordinating conjunctions introducing noun clauses

That

- ❖ She said **that** she was not very confident.
- ❖ Are you sure **that** you have the right address?
- ❖ I am afraid **that** I shall not be able to come.
- ❖ It appears **that** father is in a bad mood.

If/Whether

- ❖ She asked me **if** I had sufficient woollens for the winter.
- ❖ They wanted to know **whether** I could accept the proposal.

(B) Subordinating conjunctions introducing adverb clauses of Time: when whenever, before, after, till, since, as soon as, while, as.

- ❖ He felt sorry **when** he realized his mistake.
- ❖ I will give him your message **whenever** I see him.
- ❖ The farmers had harvested the crop **before** the rains set in.
- ❖ They reached the theatre **after** the show had begun.
- ❖ Father asked me to stay at home **till** he returned.
- ❖ She has not written to me **since** she left.
- ❖ **As soon as** I got the telegram, I left for Mumbai.
- ❖ He checked the accounts **while** I took a cup of tea.
- ❖ I came across an old friend **as** I was walking to the school.

NOTE:

'While' suggests a certain duration of time. As a conjunction, it means during the time that, for, as long as, at the same time, as;

- ❖ **While** there is life there is hope.
- 'As' can be used to mean when or while.
- ❖ I saw him **as** he was getting off the bus.

Place: where, wherever

- ❖ She found her bag **where** she had left it in the shop.
- ❖ **Whenever** he goes, he wins respect.

Cause or reason: because, since, as

- ❖ I prefer to live in Kolkata because the climate suits me.
- ❖ The thief could escape easily since there was no policeman on duty.
- ❖ We did not call him for an interview as we had not received his application in time.

Result or consequence: so- that, such- that.

- ❖ Her result was **so** poor **that** all of us were disappointed.
- ❖ There was **such** a crowd at the platform **that** we could not get 'into the train.

Purpose: so that, that, lest

- ❖ She is working day and night **so that** she may improve her result.
- ❖ We eat **so that** we may live.
- ❖ He is wearing a woolen coat **lest** he should catch cold.

" NOTE:

So- that and so that should be clearly distinguished. 'So' in the principal clauses and that introducing a subordinate clause suggests result. 'So that' together suggests Purpose:

- ❖ It is raining so hard that we cannot go out. (Our not going out is the result of heavy rain.)
- ❖ We are organizing a fete so that we may raise funds for the school building. (The purpose of organizing a fete is to raise funds for the school building.)

Lest is followed by should and the clause introduced by lest does not take a negative:

- ❖ I am taking a taxi lest I should get late.

Condition: If, unless.

- ❖ You will be turned out **if** you make noise again.
- ❖ You will not be allowed to enter **unless** you have an invitation.

Concession or contrast: though, although, although — yet, even if, even though.

- ❖ She is humble **though** she is rich.
- ❖ **Although** he lost heavily **yet** he did not lose heart.
- ❖ I shall not betray my country even if I have to sacrifice my life for it.

Comparison: as — as, than

- ❖ He is as stupid as his brother (is)
- ❖ Anu is cleverer than her sister. (is)

Manner: as, as if

- ❖ They acted as they had been advised.
- ❖ He behaved as if he were angry.



Study the difference of usage of conjunctions:

(A) And, As well as

These two conjunctions are used to add one statements to another:

**Illustrative
EXAMPLE**



- ❖ The man is poor. The man is blind.
The man is poor and blind.
- ❖ Robinson likes tea. Robinson likes coffee.

Robinson likes tea as well as coffee.

- ❖ Rita and Twinkle are dancing.
- ❖ You as well he have lifted the box.
- ❖ Please come and sit beside me.
- ❖ Smith sells fruits and vegetables.

(B) Or, Either — or, Neither — nor -

These conjunctions are used to indicate a choice between one statement and another.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



Example

- ❖ Is he happy? Is he sad?
Is he happy or sad?
- ❖ I will come. I will send James.
Either I will come or send James.
- ❖ Steve is no my friend. He is not my brother.
Steve is neither my friend nor my brother.

(C) But, Still, Yet

These conjunctions are used to express contrast between two statements.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ He is intelligent. He does not read.
He is intelligent but he does not read.
- ❖ The teacher was angry. He did not scold the boy.
The teacher was angry still he did not scold the boy.
- ❖ These books are costly. People buy them.
These books are costly yet people buy them.

(D) So, therefore

These conjunctions are used to join two statements where one statement is proved from the other statement.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ He did not take umbrella. He got wet.
He did not take umbrella so he got wet.
- ❖ The boy stole bread from the shop. He was arrested by the police.
The boy stole bread from the shop, therefore he was arrested by the police.

(E) When, while

These conjunctions are used to join two statements when time of an action is to show.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ The cat is away. The mice plays.

When the cat is away the mice plays.

❖ I met Serena. I was in London.

I met Serena while I was in London.

(F) If, Unless

These conjunctions are used to join two statements when condition is shown.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



❖ You give me money. I will return your pen.

If you give me money, I will return your pen.

❖ You make haste. You cannot reach home in time.

Unless you make haste you cannot reach home in time.

(G) As, Than

These conjunctions are used to show comparison between two persons or things.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



❖ He is wise. I am wise.

He is as wise as!

❖ You are happier than I

❖ Smith is more curious than Steve.

❖ Lotus is as beautiful as Lily.

(H) Although (though) — yet

❖ Although India has rich resources yet she is poor.

❖ Although she belongs to a rich family yet she is unhappy.

Both — and

❖ I *both* love and admire you.

❖ The thief was both fined and imprisoned.

(J) Such — as

❖ Such land as described here does not exist anywhere.

❖ He is not such a man as you would like to marry.

(K) Such — that

❖ Such was his love for her that he gave up the throne in order to marry her.

❖ Such was the intensity of her grief that she could not even weep.

(L) So — as, as — so

❖ He is not so brave as you think.

❖ As the child is, so is the man.

(M) As — so

- ❖ As you sow, so shall you reap.
- ❖ As the child is, so is the man.

(N) So— that

- ❖ She sang so sweetly that the whole hall resounded with cheers.
- ❖ The speech was so moving that all eyes became wet.

(O) Scarcely (hardly) —— when

- ❖ Scarcely (hardly) had we stepped out when we got drenched.
- ❖ She had hardly recovered from malaria when she met with an accident.

(P) Not only ——— but also

- ❖ She can speak not only French but German o/so.
- ❖ The soldiers not only killed people but destroyed property o/so.

(Q) No sooner —— than

- ❖ No sooner did I begin my homework than the telephone bell rang.
- ❖ No sooner do the clouds appear in the sky than the peacocks begin to dance.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Fill in the blanks with suitable conjunction.



Ashoka was a brave _____ a pious king.

Answer: As well as



Two _____ two make four.

Answer: And



Serena is smarter _____ her elder sister.

Answer: Than



The boy was excused _____ he admitted his mistake.

Answer: But

Commonly Asked QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with suitable Conjunction.



My friend is a musician ____ teacher.

- (A) As well as (B) But
(C) That (D) As
(E) And

Answer: (a)

Explanation: My friend is a musician as well as teacher.



A dog's bark is worse _____ its bite.

- (A) Or (B) As
(C) But (D) Than
(E) And

Answer: (d)

Explanation: A dog's bark is worse than its bite.

SUMMARY



- ❖ A word that is used to join two words or sentences is known as a conjunction.
- ❖ Some conjunctions are used in pairs to give a more compact or confirmed meaning. These conjunctions are called Correlative Conjunctions. (e.g. either or, neither nor, etc.)
- ❖ A conjunction used to join two independent statements or two statements of equal rank or importance is called a Coordinating Conjunction. (e.g. and, but, either or, neither nor, or, for, still, only, as well as, else, etc.)
- ❖ A conjunction used to join two statements, one of which is dependent on the other is called a Subordinating Conjunction. (e. g. after, till, before, unless, that (not as a relative pronoun), because, although, though, (sometimes these are also adverbs) until, than, as if, if etc.)
- ❖ List of some commonly used conjunctions :

And	But	Since	When	Either—or
Although	Because	Till	While	Neither—nor
As well as	If	Until	Unless	Therefore
As	Or	Still	Yet	Before

Self Evaluation TEST



Duration
10 Minutes

Find the conjunction that can connect two sentences.



He was cruel. He was unjust.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| (A) Though | (B) But |
| (C) As | (D) So |
| (E) And | |



Do what you want to do ____ don't disturb me.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| (A) Though | (B) But |
| (C) As | (D) So |
| (E) That | |



The school bell does not ring ____ the principal arrives.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| (A) Though | (B) But |
| (C) As | (D) Until |
| (E) That | |



Smith cannot run so well ____ I can.

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| (A) Though | (B) But |
| (C) As | (D) So well as |
| (E) That | |



I can help you _____ you stick to your words.

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| (A) If | (B) But |
| (C) As | (D) So |
| (E) That | |



Time ____ tide never wait for anyone.

- | | |
|----------------|---------|
| (A) Though | (B) And |
| (C) As | (D) So |
| (E) As well as | |
-



We eat _____ we may live.

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| (A) So that | (B) But |
| (C) As | (D) So |
| (E) That | |



I met him _____ I was in Mumbai.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| (A) Though | (B) But |
| (C) When | (D) So |
| (E) That | |



You know _____ the earth is round.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| (A) Though | (B) But |
| (C) As | (D) So |
| (E) That | |



She missed the bus _____ she was late.

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| (A) Though | (B) But |
| (C) Because | (D) So |
| (E) That | |
-

Self Evaluation Test

SOLUTIONS



Explanation for selected Questions

1. He was cruel and unjust.
2. Do what you want to do but don't disturb me.
3. The school bell does not ring unless the principal arrives.
4. Smith cannot run so well as I can.
5. I can help you if you stick to your words.
6. Time and tide never wait for anyone.
7. We eat so that we may live.
8. I met him when I was in Mumbai.
9. You know that the earth is round.
10. She missed the bus because she was late.

Answer

1.	E	2.	B	3.	D	4.	D	5.	A	6.	B	7.	A	8.	C	9.	E	10.	C
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