

Connectors

What are Connectors?

A connector is a term for words in English which are used to connect words, phrases or clauses. They show the relationship between two ideas in the sentence. There are three types of parts of speech which function as connectors in a sentence.

- Conjunctions
- Relative pronouns
- Conjunctive adverbs
- Prepositions
- Punctuation

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words which are used to connect words, phrases or clauses.

The monkeys wreaked havoc **and** attacked the locals.
The hero rescued the baby **but** failed to apprehend the kidnapper.

There are three types of conjunction connectors.

- Coordinators
- Subordinators
- Correlatives

Coordinators join two independent clauses, whereas **subordinators** join an independent clause to a dependent clause.

Coordinators

The winds howled **and** the trees swayed.
Meenakshi is well prepared, **yet** she is not confident.
The lock is broken **but** the valuables inside are safe.
Leaving now will be futile **for** we already missed the bus.

Subordinators

When it rains, it pours.
Although I am interested, I cannot make any promises.
Take these pills **before** you go to sleep.
Where there is a will, there is a way.

Correlatives are pairs of conjunctions which connect elements of the sentence that are equal.

Correlatives

She returned **both** the utensils **and** the clothes.
The door is made of **either** wood **or** plastic.
Tell me by tomorrow **whether** you want the car **or** not.
They have bought **not only** a new house **but also** a new car.

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns are words which connect a clause or a phrase to a noun that has been mentioned in the sentence.

Relative Pronouns

The house **that** was at the corner of the street
The aunt **whom** I love the most
The friend **whose** books I borrowed
The man, **whom** I once spoke to, is an accomplished swindler.

Conjunctive Adverbs

They have qualities of adverbs as well as conjunctions. They express reason and purpose of the verbs like adverbs. They join sentences or clauses together like conjunctions.

Conjunctive Adverbs

Rita could not find a handyman; **nevertheless**, she repaired the TV on her own.
Christine is very scrupulous. **Obviously**, her work is flawless.
Water the plants. **In the meantime**, I will arrange the furniture.
Like father like son. **After all**, the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree.

Prepositions

Connecting prepositions or prepositional phrases can be used to connect parts of a sentence.

Prepositions

Yamini bought a new computer **in spite of** having a laptop.

Geena didn't go to school **because of** the rains.

The programme was cancelled **on account of** the strike.

He offered a cheque **in lieu of** cash.

Punctuation

Certain punctuation marks such as the comma and the semi-colon show transition of ideas. The comma is used to join clauses. The semi-colon can be used to show a connection or contrast between two sentences.

Punctuation

I started studying only three weeks ago, but I managed to score well.

Richard insisted on travelling first class; however, he wanted me to pay the fare.

Relationships Expressed by Connectors

Addition	And, also, in addition to, moreover, furthermore, as well as, Along with, besides, similarly, likewise
Comparison	As, both...and, either...or, likewise
Contrast	But, yet, although, even though, however, whereas, On one hand...on the other
Result	So, therefore, hence, as a result, consequently, because of
Restatement	In other words, to clarify, to sum up
Time	When, at that time, once, now, yet, before, after
Place	Where, here, there
Condition	If...then, in that case, provided that, that being the case