

# CONJUNCTIONS

A **conjunction** is a word that connects words, phrases, or clauses within a sentence. This lets us create more complex and interesting sentences.

There are three main types of conjunctions: coordinating, correlative, and subordinating.

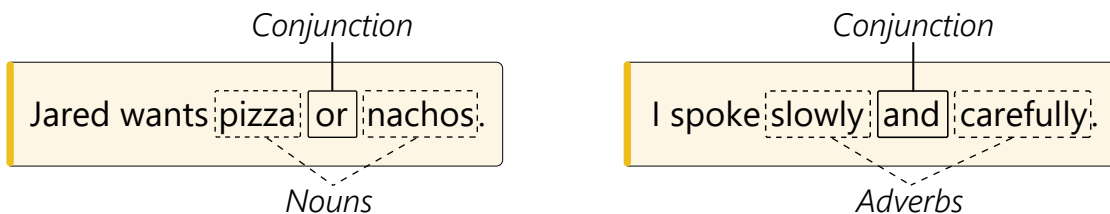
## COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Coordinating conjunctions are used to connect (coordinate!) parts of a sentence that have equal rank. In other words, they can be used to connect two nouns, two verbs, two independent clauses, etc.

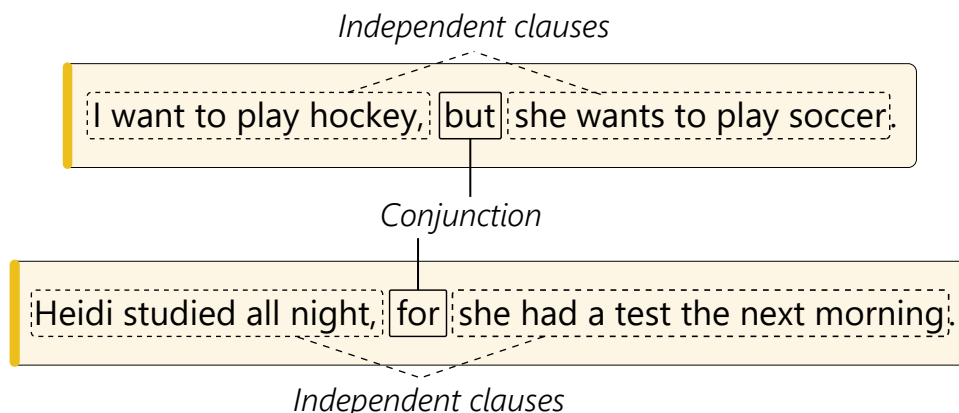
You can use the acronym FANBOYS to remember the coordinating conjunctions:

<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>S</b>
For	And	Nor	But	Or	Yet	So

In the two sentences below, the coordinating conjunctions and or are used to connect nouns and adverbs. When a conjunction is connecting simple words or phrases, you don't add a comma before it.



If a conjunction is being used to connect two independent clauses, you always add a comma before the conjunction:



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## CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

Correlative conjunctions are used in pairs to correlate similar elements of a sentence. It's common to pair correlative conjunctions with the wrong partner, so be sure to remember the pairs:

Either/or	You can <u>either</u> do your homework <u>or</u> clean your room.
Neither/nor	<u>Neither</u> Rachel <u>nor</u> Olivia showed up to work on time.
Both/and	<u>Both</u> the dog <u>and</u> the cat are playing in the yard.
Not only/but also	My teacher is <u>not only</u> intelligent <u>but also</u> funny.
Whether/or	I can't decide <u>whether</u> to pack a lunch <u>or</u> buy one.
Rather/than	I'd <u>rather</u> watch a movie <u>than</u> read a book.

Just like coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions must connect **parallel** elements (two nouns, two verb phrases, two prepositional phrases, etc.).

Take the sentence below, for example. The either/or pair isn't parallel because it's trying to connect an independent clause with a verb, which aren't the same thing.

Either Lucy will walk or bike to her appointment.

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To correct this, you can change where the word *either* appears. Placing it before *walk* will make the correlation parallel.

Lucy will either walk or bike to her appointment.

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## SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Subordinating conjunctions are used to introduce a dependent clause (also called a subordinate clause) in order to connect it to an independent clause.

There are seven meanings that these conjunctions can express.

### Condition

You can take the exam if you're registered.

I'll go skydiving as long as you go too.

### Time

I'll head to the store after the tennis match.

Please wait here until I get out of class.

### Purpose

Claire ran so that she would arrive on time.

Slow down in order that you don't trip.

### Place

Wherever he goes, he always wears a suit.

I know a place where we can go to fish.

### Contrast

Although it was rainy, we played the game.

While it's very old, the car still runs well.

### Reason

They ate early because they were hungry.

We should go home now since it's late.

### Manner

The dancer leapt as if he had grown wings.

He dressed as though it were summer.