

Parts of Speech: Conjunctions

Description of the Lecture This lecture is about conjunctions. It provides the conceptual as well as technical frameworks of conjunctions to identify their classification and uses. The lecture counts on the definitions, kinds, uses, examples and exercises. Objectives of the Lecture When students have successfully completed this unit, they should be able, among

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other things, to; 1. Define the part of speech known as conjunctions. 2. List the main kinds and common conjunctions. 3. Recognize how conjunctions function in sentences. 4. Show the relationship of conjunctions with other related words, clauses and sentences in a sentence. 5. Compare between prepositions and interjections. 6. Compose correct, meaningful and functional sentences through conjunctions.

1. Definition of Conjunction

Conjunctions are part of speech, like prepositions, are also joining words or connectives. As the term its self suggests, "con + junction" the first part "con" which is a Spanish word means "with" while the second part refers to the place where two or more elements or lines meet or conjoined. A conjunction is like a bridge. As the Golden Gate Bridge connects San Francisco with Marin County in California, a conjunction links words or groups of words together. Conjunctions always travel in pairs.

Conjunctions are words that are used to connect other words, phrases, clauses, groups of words or sentences. Conjunctions are like prepositions but they are different from them in their scope in a sentence because conjunctions do exactly the same job like marriage. Conjunctions can be found in any position in a sentence except in the very end. Before you can really understand conjunctions, students will need to work through the last unit of the file of part of speech "sentence". Conjunction takes an important role in the writing. Without conjunction, the meaning of the text will be not logic. Examples:

☐ John, Stephan, and Ann are all looking for keys. "The conjunction word and joins equal words which are all proper nouns together." ☐ Ann and Katia revised the recent lesson, but they could not understand it. Here in this sentence the words "and" "but" are conjunctions. And joins two nouns; but joins two complete ideas. ☐ You may be interviewed by a human resources officer or by a supervising manager.

Conjunctions = conjoins = "connects words, phrases or clauses –at the hip- like conjoined twins". They are connectors or connectives. ☐ Coordination means combining two sentences or ideas that are of equal value. ☐ Subordination means combining two sentences or ideas in a way that makes

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one more important than the other. Single Word such as and, but, nor, for, yet, because, although Compound such as provided that, as long as, in order that. So that

Correlative such as so...that, eitheror, neithernor

2. Kinds of Conjunctions

Language scholars have divergent views on the kinds of conjunction. For instance, some of them divide conjunctions into two classes: coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. These scholars leave out correlative conjunctions because, according to them, correlative conjunctions are similar to coordinating conjunctions. However, there are traditionally three kinds of conjunctions basically. They include: correlative conjunction, subordinate conjunction, and coordinating conjunction.

2. 1. Coordinating Conjunctions or Coordinators

Coordination is used to join equal rank, items, independent clauses and parts in a sentence. In short, they are used to join two equal and similar grammatical units of the same class, rank or pattern: a noun with a noun; an adjective with an adjective; and so on. So they are used to join two "coordinate elements of equal rank" in order to show the logical connection between ideas. A coordinating conjunction shows that the elements "independent clauses" it joins are similar in importance and structure. Furthermore, they link two sentences that do not depend on each other for meaning and structure. Coordinating conjunction is somewhat different from other conjunctions because in addition to connecting clauses, it can also connect words. However, the phrases produced are not prepositional phrases. A coordinate sentence also known as a compound sentence consists of two or more Independent clauses joined either. The most common coordinators are "and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so....." See the table and examples below:

☐ The boys and girls worked at fair. "Boys and girls are equal noun words" ☐ John or Stephan can go with you tonight. "John and Stephan are equal proper nouns" ☐ I would like to help you, but I will be busy tonight. "But in this example joins two sentences or two complete ideas.

The words and, nor, or can connect nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, or prepositional phrases as a series of elements. Use nor in negative sentences. The table below illustrates how coordinating conjunctions connect different word classes.

Word Class Examples Nouns ☐ There are pens, paper, and pencils on the shelf. ☐ Take the red blouse or the green blouse. ☐ I don't like a Porsche nor a Cadillac. Verbs ☐ Joe plays guitar and sings well. ☐ The group can't dance nor act. ☐ We will swim or ride our bikes on Saturday. Adjectives ☐ Paul is athletic, studious, and generous. ☐ Today is not sunny nor warm. ☐ Those socks are black or blue. Adverbs ☐ The scouts walked quietly and carefully through the woods. ☐ These questions are neither neatly nor correctly answered. ☐ In ballet jump quickly or elegantly, or don't jump at all. Prepositional Phrase ☐ Look under the bushes and among the flowers for the hidden Easter eggs. ☐ You will find your socks under the bed or in the closet. ☐ Don't hang the picture over the mantel nor above the door.

Use of comma in Coordinating Conjunctions ☐ Coordinating conjunctions always come between the words or clauses that they join. When a coordinating conjunction joins independent clauses, it is always correct to place a comma before the conjunction. Examples: ☐ Ann wants to become a doctor in the future, so Ann is studying medicine at university. ☐ I would like to help you, but I will be busy tonight. ☐ However, if the independent clauses are short and well-balanced, a comma is not really essential. Examples: ☐ She is rich so she helps poor people. ☐ The boys and girls worked at fair. ☐ When "and" is used with the last word of a list, a comma is optional. Example: ☐ She likes cars, bicycles, trains and planes. or ☐ She likes cars, bicycles, trains and planes.

2. 2. Correlative Conjunctions or Correlatives "Item Pairs"

They are called correlatives because they go in pairs. Correlative conjunctions join elements of equal name and rank (such as adjectives or nouns) and emphasize

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the elements being joined. The most common correlatives are as follows: "both/and, either/or, neither/nor, not only; but also, and weather /or" S As suggested before and by their name, correlative conjunctions correlate, working in pairs to join phrases or words that carry equal importance within a sentence. Like many of the most interesting parts of speech, correlative conjunctions are fun to use. At the same time, there are some important rules to remember for using them correctly.

☐ When using correlative conjunctions, ensure verbs agree so your sentences make sense as in the example: Every day, either loud sound or sun shine deprive Ann from her lessons. ☐ When you use a correlative conjunction, you must be sure that pronouns agree as in the example: neither Ann nor Sarah expressed her happiness when their father came back from his long trip. ☐ When using correlative conjunctions, be sure to keep parallel structure intact. Equal grammatical units need to be incorporated into the entire sentence as in the example: Not only did Ann cook potato for John, but she also fixed a steak for her dog. ☐ It is worth to mention that correlatives are followed by the same class of words in a sentence. See the examples below: ☐ She has not only a car but also a bus. (noun + noun) ☐ They saw neither Ann nor John. (noun + noun) ☐ We neither phoned

Stephan nor wrote to her. (verb+ verb) ☐ He is not only young but also beautiful.
(adjective + adjective) ☐ If I don't return in an hour then call the police. ☐ As you more make efforts
so you will succeed.

3. 3. Subordinating Conjunctions or Subordinators "dependent clauses"

Subordination in English grammar is the process of linking two clauses in a sentence so that one clause is dependent on (or subordinate to) another. Clauses joined by coordination are called main clauses or independent clauses. This is in contrast to subordination, in which a subordinate clause The majority of conjunctions in English are "subordinating conjunctions". Subordinating conjunctions are used to join clauses of unequal rank in a complex sentence. They connect two or more clauses which do not have the same syntactic status and importance. In short, a subordinating conjunction joins a subordinate

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(dependent) clause to a main (independent) clause: These clauses usually are "1" an independent "main" clause and "2" a dependent "supporting" subordinate clause. They introduce a dependent clause and indicate the nature of the relationship between the dependent clause and the independent clause. They are used to introduce subordinate clauses and join them to principal clauses/ main clauses. Example:

Main or Independent Clause Subordinate or Dependent Clause Ann goes shopping although It is very cold. Subordinating Conjunction

A subordinate or dependent clause "depends" on a main or independent clause. It cannot exist alone. Imagine that somebody says to you: "Hi! Although it was cold today," What do you understand? Nothing! But a main or independent clause can exist alone. You will understand very well if somebody says to you: "Hi! It is cold today."

Important reminder: Kinds of Conjunctions Coordinating Subordinating Correlative They are used to link or join two words or phrases that are equally important and complete in terms of grammar when compared with each other such as: and, for, yet They are used to join an independent and complete clause with a dependent clause that relies on the main clause for meaning and relevance such as: although, whether, until They are pairs of conjunctions used in a sentence to join different words or groups of words in a sentence such as: either /or, neither/nor, but/also, hardly/when

4. Subordinators and Dependent Clauses

Joining two independent clauses with a subordinator transforms one of them—the one which begins with the subordinator—into a dependent clause. Even though this clause will still contain a subject-verb unit, it cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Independent Clause (a complete sentence)

Dependent clause (no longer a complete sentence)

☒ The young blond heiress was often in the internet sites.

☒ Although the young blond heiress was often in the internet sites

☒ She was almost finished with his last year of school.

☒ Because he was almost finished with his last year of school ☒ They find the exam difficult. ☒ Even They find the exam difficult ☒ You are intelligent. ☒ Though you are intelligent

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The Dependent clauses above pretending to be sentences are actually fragments, a grammar error you can read more about the “Fragments” in the next section. Consequently, the group of words beginning with a subordinating conjunction would be a sentence fragment by itself.

5. Subordinators & Emphasis Unlike coordinators, subordinators do not give equal emphasis to the ideas they connect; instead, the clause that begins with a subordinator—the dependent clause—receives less emphasis. Compare the following two sentences: ☒ Although she wanted to see the movie in the cinema, Ann did not want to pay more Euros. ☒ Although she did not want to pay more Euros, Ann wanted to see the movie in the cinema. In the first sentence, the subordinator “although” de-emphasizes Ann’s desire to see the movie in the cinema; her reluctance to pay more Euros seems more important. In the second sentence, however, the subordinator “although” de-emphasizes Ann’s reluctance to pay more Euros, and her desire to see the movie in the cinema seems more important. Consequently, be careful, then, when deciding where to place the subordinator—this placement can change the meaning and emphasis of your sentence. It should be noted again that when a subordinator introduces a sentence, put a comma after the first clause. But if the subordinator comes in the middle of a clause, you don’t need to set it off with a comma. ☒ After he arrived home, he moved directly to bed. Subordinator at the beginning of the sentence takes comma at the end of the clause. ☒ He moved directly to bed after he arrived home. Subordinator at the middle of the sentence does not take comma.

Important Note: Students must make distinction between coordinators and subordinators. They have to use coordinators when they want to equally stress both ideas or clauses; if instead they want to de-emphasize one of the ideas "clauses", they have to use a subordinator with less important clause for an unequal stre