

Coordination, Correlation, and Subordination

Conjunctions are words that **connect** words, phrases, or clauses, but the different types of conjunctions establish these connections based on **specific relationships** between the words, phrases and clauses.

Coordinating Conjunctions

This type of conjunction connects words, phrases, and clauses of **equal grammatical rank**. The seven coordinating conjunctions can be easily remembered using the acronym **F.A.N.B.O.Y.S.**

For expresses causal relationships – one element causes another.

- **Ex. The pianists practiced every day, for they wanted to perform well at their recital.**

And joins elements to show what they have in common.

- **Ex. They played pieces by Bach, Beethoven, and Rachmaninoff.**

Nor is an alternative way of expressing a second action as negative.

- **Ex. They did not stop to eat for two whole days, nor did they sleep.**

But emphasizes the difference between the two elements it joins.

- **Ex. They were so tired, but they kept practicing.**

Or indicates an alternative.

- **Ex. They knew that they must perform well at their recital, or they would not be accepted into the Academy of Arts.**

Yet emphasizes the difference between the elements it joins. However, unlike “but” it further suggests that the second element is something not ordinarily expected.

- **Ex. They usually played well, yet their fatigue made them sloppy.**

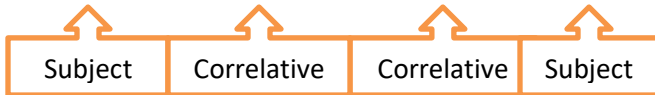
So suggests a purpose – the second element is needed because of the first.

- **They finally couldn't keep their eyes open, so they took a nap.**

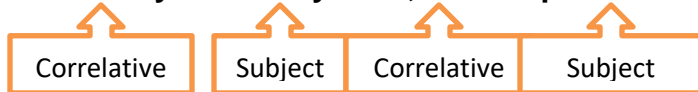
Correlative Conjunctions

This type of conjunction adds **further emphasis** to the relationships set up by coordinating conjunctions. The five correlatives (***both...and***; ***either...or***; ***neither...nor***; ***not only...but also***; ***whether...or***) must join elements **alike in structure** or the effect of the correlative is lost.

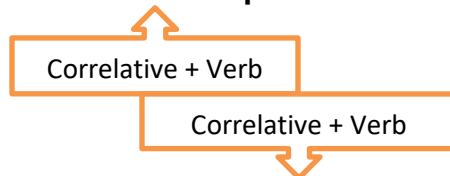
Ex. They were **not only** tired, **but** the pianists were also hungry. 



Ex. **Not only** were they tired, **but** the pianists were also hungry. 



Ex. They knew they had to **either** sleep **or** eat something to keep up their energy.



Ex. **But**, ultimately, they **neither** slept **nor** ate anything for two days.

Note: The correlative ***neither...nor*** negates the action of a sentence and so should be used only with positive verbs.

Ex. The pianists could not play **neither** Mozart **nor** Bizet. = Double Negative 

Corrected Ex. The pianists could play **neither** Mozart **nor** Bizet.

Corrected Ex. 2 The pianists could not play **either** Mozart **or** Bizet.

It should also be noted that ***either*** cannot go with ***nor*** and ***neither*** cannot go with ***or***.

Conjunctive Adverbs

These conjunctions are different from other joining words in that they usually begin sentences and function as **transitions (see handout entitled *Transition Signals*)**. For this reason, they are often preceded by periods or semicolons and followed by commas.

Conjunctive Adverb	Relationship Indicated
also, besides, furthermore, likewise, moreover	addition
likewise, similarly	comparison
conversely, however, otherwise, nevertheless, still	contrast
accordingly, consequently, hence, subsequently, therefore, thus	result

Note: Conjunctive Adverbs can be embedded within sentences provided they come **between subjects and accompanying verbs**, and are surrounded by commas on both sides.

Ex. The pianists, **nevertheless**, continued to practice.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Many of the relationships indicated by coordinating conjunctions can also be indicated by subordinating conjunctions. Importantly, however, subordinating conjunctions make connections based on **unequal grammatical rank**, and so they must be handled differently in writing.

Subordinating conjunctions connect a **dependent** (subordinate) clause to an **independent** (main) clause to create a **complex sentence**. Unfortunately, unlike coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions do not have a helpful acronym to help us remember them. Some of the more common subordinating conjunctions are listed below:

Subordinating Conjunction	Relationship Indicated
because, in that, since	causal
although, even though, except, though, while	concession
if, once, unless, whether	conditional
as, as if, as though	manner
whence, where, wherever	place or direction
in order that, so, so that, that	purpose
after, as long as, as soon as, before, since, when	time

No commas are necessary before a subordinating conjunction when a dependent clause finishes a sentence.

No Comma



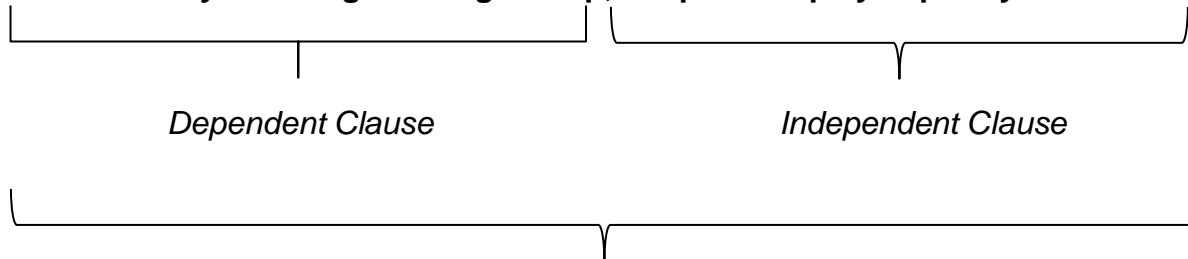
Ex. The pianists played poorly at their recital because they did not get enough sleep.

By comparison, when a dependent clause begins a sentence, a comma should precede the beginning of the independent clause.

Comma



Ex. Because they did not get enough sleep, the pianists played poorly at their recital.



Complex Sentence

Note: Dependent clauses not attached to independent clauses are called **sentence fragments** and should be avoided as an error in writing.

Ex. Although the pianists had a nap.

Corrected Ex. Although the pianists had a nap, they were still tired.