

Connecting Words

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER

CONNECTING WORDS

Coordinating Conjunctions

Correlative Conjunctions

Subordinators

Conjunctive Adverbs



STRATEGIES TO CONNECT IDEAS

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

DEFINITION:

- A connector that links two or more words, phrases, or clauses independent and dependent clauses.
- A comma is used before each coordinating conjunction.

Coordinating Conjunction	Function	Example
for	Show reason	<i>The students walked to campus, for the bus was delayed.</i>
and	Add information	<i>The student attended the morning class, and she dropped into the pool for a swim.</i>
nor	Add negative information	<i>The child does not like television, nor does he like video games.</i>
but	Show contrast	<i>Sarah walked to class, but Kevin ran.</i>
or	Provide choice(s)	<i>We can visit the museum, or we can visit the aquarium.</i>
yet	Show concession or contrast	<i>Cigarettes are harmful to one's health, yet many people continue to smoke.</i>
so	Show result	<i>My washing machine is broken, so I went to the laundromat.</i>

CORRELATIVE (PAIRED) CONJUNCTIONS

DEFINITION:

- A pair of words used to indicate equal parts in a sentence using a variety of sentence elements.
- The pair can connect nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverb, phrases, and clauses.
- Be sure that word forms, phrases, or clauses are parallel.
- Ensure that verbs respect the subject-verb agreement.
- Use commas as required.

Correlative Conjunction	Example	Sentence Element
both ... and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The campus is both functional and beautiful.</i> • <i>Both the car and the apartment were vandalized.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adjective</i> • <i>Noun</i>
not only ... but also	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The apartment was not only dirty, but also smelly.</i> • <i>Not only did they travel to the beach, but they also visited the old city centre.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adjective</i> • <i>Clause</i>
either ... or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Either the weather or the cost will determine if they attend the outdoor concert.</i> • <i>The festival goers will enter either from the north side or from the south side.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noun</i> • <i>Phrase</i>
neither ... nor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Neither participant nor employee prepared for the rain during the outdoor concert.</i> • <i>The student will neither sing nor dance in front of a large audience.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noun</i> • <i>Verb</i>
whether ... or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I am indecisive about whether the train or the bus will be cost effective.</i> • <i>Whether I study in Europe or I get educated in Canada, I know I will gain experience.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noun</i> • <i>Clause</i>



SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

DEFINITION:

- A word used to connect a dependent clause to an independent clause expressing specific functions.
- A comma is used when the dependent clause precedes the independent clause (DC , IC) (IC DC). However, there are exceptions to the rule.
- Subordinating conjunctions introduce **adjective clauses**, **adverb clauses**, and **noun clauses**.

(A) ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

- **A dependent clause** that functions as an adjective by modifying a **noun (antecedent)**.

Subordinating Conjunction	Refer to	Example
who, whom	People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I like the people who are friendly.</i> • <i>The man whom we saw is my teacher.</i>
whose	People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>She takes care of two children whose mother is travels.</i> • <i>The musician whose lyrics we sang attended our concert.</i>
that (informal)	People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The professor that lectured in the course is from Italy.</i>
which	Animals and things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I brought the dog which I found to the animal shelter.</i> • <i>The zodiac which was loaded with tourists left for the tour.</i>
that	Animals and things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I brought the lost dog that I found to the animal shelter.</i> • <i>The children enjoyed the outdoor film that was free.</i>
when	Time or place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>June is the month when he most weddings occur.</i>
where	Time or place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Let's walk to the park where we can sit and relax.</i>

(B) ADVERB CLAUSE

- o **A dependent clause that functions as an adverb.**

Subordinating Conjunction	Refer to	Example
when, whenever, while, as soon as, after, since, as, before, until	time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When students study, they also boost their confidence.</i> [specific time] • <i>Whenever the transportation system fails, the public suffer.</i> [at any time] • <i>The instructor corrected papers while the students reviewed.</i> [at the same time] • <i>As soon as the company reverted its policy, staff were relaxed.</i> [soon after] • <i>After the jobs were vacated, the company closed its division.</i> [later] • <i>Work schedules changed since the business prompted flexibility.</i> [from that time] • <i>As I was leaving the work site, the fire alarm went off.</i> [at the same time] • <i>Before the family immigrated to Canada, they suffered hardship.</i> [earlier] • <i>She worked mornings until her child went to school all day.</i> [up to that time]
where, wherever, everywhere, anywhere	place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Most students buy where it is the cheapest.</i> [specific place] • <i>Most businesses recruit wherever they can.</i> [any place] • <i>Students can learn everywhere they work.</i> [every place] • <i>Anywhere you travel, you hear politics.</i> [any place]
as + [adverb] + as	distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The recruiters traveled as far as they could to promote the university program.</i>
as + [adverb] + as	frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The students do not study as often as they should.</i>
as, as + {adverb} + as, as if, as though, like	manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The business hired one hundred new engineers as human resources recommended.</i> • <i>The business hired the engineers as quickly as it could to avoid delays in their projects.</i> • <i>The department looks as if/as though it is busy based on the number of new employees.</i> • <i>The department looks like it is busy based on the number of new employees.</i>
because, since, as, now that	reason	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Because I did not do well on the entrance exam, I need to apply again.</i> • <i>Since I got here, I have done little work.</i> [reason not time] • <i>As the tuition fee rises, most international students do not register.</i> [reason clause NOT time] • <i>Now that I have a GPS, I never get lost.</i>
so that, in order that	purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I am putting on my glasses so that I can read the menu.</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In order that Max could see the Smartboard</u>, he moved to the front of the room.
<p>so +{adjective/adverb} + that, such (an/a) + {noun} + that, so much + {noun} + that, so many + {noun} + that, so little + {noun} + that, so few + {noun} + that</p>	result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business was <u>so prosperous that it hired 100 new employees.</u> • The projects arrived <u>so quickly that the business hired 100 new employees.</u> • The business was <u>such a success that it hired 100 new employees.</u> • The company was consumed with <u>so much conflict that it laid off 50 employees.</u> • The business was consumed with <u>so many project that it hired 100 new employees.</u> • The company had <u>so little work that it had layoffs.</u> • The business had <u>so few jobs that there were layoffs.</u>
<p>whereas, while</p>	direct opposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario residents have access to a rail system, <u>whereas</u> Newfoundlanders do not. • <u>Whereas</u> Newfoundlanders do not have access to a rail systems, Ontario residents do. • Ontario residents have access to a rail system, <u>while</u> Newfoundlanders do not. • <u>While</u> Newfoundlanders do not have access to a rail systems, Ontario residents do.
<p>although even though [strong] though [less formal]</p>	concession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Although I practiced my swimming every day</u>, I did not pass the swim exam. • I did not pass the swim exam <u>even though I practiced every day.</u> • <u>Though I practiced swimming every day</u>, I did not pass the swim exam.
<p>if unless</p>	conditional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>If you prepare all semester</u>, you will increase your chances of success on the final examination. • You will increase your chances of success on the final examination <u>if you prepare all semester.</u> • <u>Unless you prepare all semester</u>, you will not increase your chances of success on the final examination. • You will not increase your chances of success on the final examination <u>unless you prepare all semester.</u>

(C) NOUN CLAUSE

DEFINITION:

- **A dependent clause** that functions as noun.

Subordinating Conjunction	Example
that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I discovered that the house was built on a river.
whether whether or not whether ... or not if if...or not	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am not sure whether the key works. • I am not sure whether or not the key works. • I am not sure whether the key works or not. • I am not sure if the key works. • I am not sure if the key works or not.
who, whoever, whom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whoever is available tonight can watch the young children.
which, what	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am not sure which car is in the garage.
where, when, why, how	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They can ask when the bus arrives at the depot.
how much, how many	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She can ask how many chairs are needed in the room.
how long, how often ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The doctor asked how long she sat in the sun.

CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS

DEFINITION:

- A word used to connect two independent clauses.
- A semicolon is required before the conjunctive adverb and a comma is placed after the conjunctive adverb.

Conjunctive Adverb	Function	Example
also, besides, furthermore, in addition, moreover	Add similar idea	The high winds delayed flights at the airport; moreover , they impacts the ferries.
however, nevertheless, nonetheless, still	Add unexpected or surprising addition	Registration fees increased dramatically; nevertheless , student numbers were not impacted.

in contrast, on the other hand	Add complete contrast	<i>Many young Canadians do not drive a manual car; in contrast, those in Europe do.</i>
as a result, consequently, therefore, thus	Add a result	<i>The winds were very high; as a result, the flight departures were postponed.</i>
meanwhile, afterward, then, subsequently	List ideas chronologically	<i>The students completed the written portion of the exam; afterward, they proceeded to the listening section.</i>
for example, for instance,	Provide example	<i>Root vegetables are a staple in Newfoundland; for example, the potato is readily available and eaten by locals.</i>
similarly, likewise	Identify similarities	<i>Positioned on the ocean, Halifax culture is heavily influenced; similarly, St. John's traditions follow the ocean.</i>
instead, on the contrary, rather	Indicate alternative	<i>The subway did not get the man to his destination quickly; instead, he was late.</i>
instead	Indicate substitution	<i>The student declined the acceptance to the Canadian university; instead, he chose to attend one in Europe.</i>
on the other hand, alternatively	Provide another possibility	<i>To access the island resort, one can take the small ferry; on the other hand, visitors can avail of the water airplane.</i>
otherwise	Provide an often bad result	<i>You must take this gravel road; otherwise, you will need to take the boat.</i>
in other words, that is	Add explanation	<i>The university provides tourist accommodation in the summer; in other words, tourists can rent student dormitories while visiting the city.</i>
indeed, in fact	Make statement stronger	<i>The city issued a severe thunderstorm warning; in fact, all schools kept students inside for safety reasons.</i>



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Contact us

Writing Centre

Science Building Room 2053

T: 864-3168

E: writing@mun.ca

<https://www.mun.ca/writingcentre/>