

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that join words, phrases or clauses in a sentence. Conjunctions such as *for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet* and *so* are called **coordinating conjunctions**. We use them to join two clauses that are thought to be equally important.

Example: She walked to the door and called for the teacher.

The conjunctions in the margin below are called **subordinating conjunctions**. We use them to show that one clause in a sentence is less important than the other clause. These conjunctions join the *subordinate clause* to the *main clause*.

Example: He started to cry before he heard the ending.

↑
main clause

↑
subordinate clause

1. Rewrite the following sentences and join them using the coordinating conjunctions *and*, *so* or *but*.

a) I played hockey all afternoon. I am tired.

b) My aunt is coming to visit. I am happy.

c) My feet hurt. I will carry on.

d) It is a beautiful afternoon. We are going to have a picnic.

e) It is raining. My raincoat is at home.

2. Circle the correct subordinating conjunction in brackets.

a) I love to swim (when/although) I am hot.

b) I was punished (while/because) I was late.

c) I may play outside (once/even if) my homework is done.

d) He smiled (even though/rather than) he was sad.

e) Lexi went on holiday (after/since) school closed.



Help

These are examples of subordinating conjunctions:
after, than, before, whenever, since, once, because, when, although, even if, where, if only, while, so that and until.



Turn to pages 52 and 53 for help with *main clauses* and *subordinate clauses*.

More about conjunctions

Conjunctions can be used in several different ways. The table below shows how we use conjunctions.

To join ideas	<i>for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so</i>
To put ideas in an order	<i>after, before, then</i>
To explain why something is true	<i>so, therefore, because, since</i>
To take an idea in a different direction	<i>however, but, although</i>

Conjunctions make your writing flow and make sense. They also help you to create compound and complex sentences.

1. Choose the correct conjunctions from the words in the margin to complete each of the sentences below.
 - a) I like chocolate cake _____ I prefer vanilla cake.
 - b) I like chocolate cake _____ I only buy chocolate cake.
 - c) I play sport _____ I am fit.
 - d) I am fit _____ I play sport.
 - e) I always eat all the green jelly beans _____ they are my favourite.
 - f) I will study this afternoon _____ I'd prefer to play soccer.
 - g) I will play soccer _____ I finish studying.
 - h) I don't like homework _____ I know it has to be done.
2. Complete the paragraph below by choosing the correct conjunction from the list in the margin.

Nick loves going to town with his mom _____ he can help her. His mom is very grateful _____ she finds the bags heavy to carry. Nick doesn't mind carrying the bags _____ he wishes his mom would choose to shop at shops closer to home. They buy lots of vegetables like potatoes, cauliflower _____ cabbage. Vegetables are good for you _____ Nick's mom cooks them often.

but
so
because therefore
after
however

so
because
but
so that
and