

Conjunctions are connectors. They join words of the same category, phrases, clauses or sentences.

EXAMPLE: Red and green are the colors in traffic signals.

Pay your fee on time or you will have to give a fine.

We must take the umbrella because it may rain today.

EXERCISE: Underline the conjunctions in the following sentences:

1. The children are playing but their parents want them to study now.
2. The lights should be switched on as it is getting dark.
3. Although we heard the news, we could not believe it.
4. Please tell me how this problem can be solved.
5. The manager called a meeting when there was a financial crisis.
6. The office has both a computer and a photocopier.
7. There is a canteen here but it does not sell vegetarian food.
8. You can either use the classroom or the seminar room for your presentation.
9. My brother is neither here nor at home.
10. The boss will give you leave if you tell him it is an emergency.

RULE: Conjunctions are of two types: **Coordinating** and **Subordinating**. Coordinating conjunctions are used to join units which are independent of meaning from each other, that is, they are equal in importance in the sentence while Subordinating conjunctions join units that are unequal in importance, one being dependent for its meaning on the other.

EXAMPLE: He packed his bag and decided to go to Delhi. (Coordinating—both are independent actions)

He packed his bag because he decided to go to Delhi. (Subordinating—one action is cause by the other).



List of Coordinating Conjunctions		
Conjunction	Description	Function
And ,Both, As well as and Not only . . . but also	Cumulative or copulative	Adds one statement to another
But, Still, Yet, Whereas, While, and Nevertheless	Adversative	Expresses an opposition or contrast
Or, Either . . . or, Neither . . . nor, Otherwise, Else	Disjunctive	Presents two alternatives or choices
For and So	Inferential	Draws an inference

List of subordinating conjunctions	
Conjunction	Function
Since , Before, Till, After, While, As soon as, When and As	Introducing adverb clause of time
As, Because and Since	Introducing adverb clause of reason
That	Introducing adverb clause of result or consequence
If--Unless, Provided that	Introducing adverb clause of condition
Though and Although	Introducing adverb clause of concession
Than	Introducing adverb clause of comparison

EXERCISE: Identify whether the underlined are Coordinating or Subordinating conjunctions:

1. Though he lived near the river, he could not steer a boat properly.
2. The cannibals brought hippo meat and they were happily eating it.
3. It was lucky that the truth was hidden from the sailors.
4. There were many stations but they could not find human beings there.
5. There was water behind us as well as before us.
6. The Principal announced that the college timings will be changed.
7. The rabbit ran as fast as it could to escape the lion.
8. Learning English is good, but practicing it is better.
9. The speaker spoke a more difficult language than the audience could follow.
10. You can go on a holiday after you complete this project.



Use of 'if' for Conditional sentences:

RULE: These are also known as conditional clauses or 'if' clauses.

There are 3 types of conditionals:

(1) possibility of the condition being fulfilled (here the simple present tense is used with the simple future)

EXAMPLE: If Tom proves to be reliable, the manager will make him an overseer.

(2) the condition is probable but may not be possible (here the simple past tense is used with conditional 'would + infinitive')

EXAMPLE: If Jim was less sympathetic, he would be a better leader.

(3) the condition is not going to be fulfilled (here the past perfect is used with conditional 'would + have + past participle')

EXAMPLE: If Ted had not lived till he was ninety, he would not have had to see his children die.

EXERCISE: Identify which of the following are Possible, Probable or Impossible conditions:

1. If you come on time you will surely catch the train.
2. Do not stay here for long if you want to reach the station on time.
3. If the parent had been stricter, the child would not have gone into a life of crime.
4. India would have prospered better if everyone worked together.
5. If she had not got this job, she would have tried for another one.

EXERCISE: Combine the sentences to form conditional sentences:

1. The poor woman is ill. She cannot work.
2. The stranger was skilled in her work. No one would have made fun of her.
3. Lock was cruel. He would have punished the slaves inhumanly.
4. The newcomer walked straight. It would have showed that she did not care for anyone.
5. The workers are efficient. They are appreciated.

