

Conjunctions

Lesson - 7

- **Conjunctions join two words or sentences.** They have no other **function** except **joining**. Some relative adjectives, relative adverbs and prepositions also do the function of joining, but they are not called conjunctions because besides joining they perform the functions of adjectives, adverbs and preposition also. Conjunctions only join and perform no other function.
- Relative pronouns do two things at the same time. Like other pronouns, they refer to somebody or something that has already been mentioned. At the same time they are **conjunctions**, because they join clauses together.
- A word which joins together sentences or words and clauses are known as Conjunctions.

E.g.

and	for	after	before	while
but	also	if	unless	than
or	still	though	as	since
that	else	although	when	only
for	because	till	where	

E.g.

- I like Sita and Gita.
- She answered all questions and passed the exam.

Kinds of Conjunctions

1. **Correlative Conjunctions**
2. **Compound Conjunctions**
3. **Co-ordinating Conjunctions**
4. **Sub-ordinating Conjunctions**



The Glue in Sentences

1. Correlative Conjunctions

Conjunctions which are used in pairs are known as Correlative Conjunctions.

E.g.	either – or	such - that
	neither – nor	as - as
	both – and	as - so
	though – yet	so - that
	whether – or	hardly - when
	not only – but also	scarcely – when
	such – as	no sooner – than

E.g.

a) Either – or

Madhavi is **either** a typist **or** a teacher.

b) Neither – nor

she can speak **neither** English **nor** Hindi.

c) Both – And

He is **both** handsome **and** clever.



2. Compound Conjunctions

Group of words which are used as conjunctions are known as Compound Conjunctions.

E.g. in order that as though

on condition that	in	as much as
even if		as well as
so that		as soon as
provided that		as if

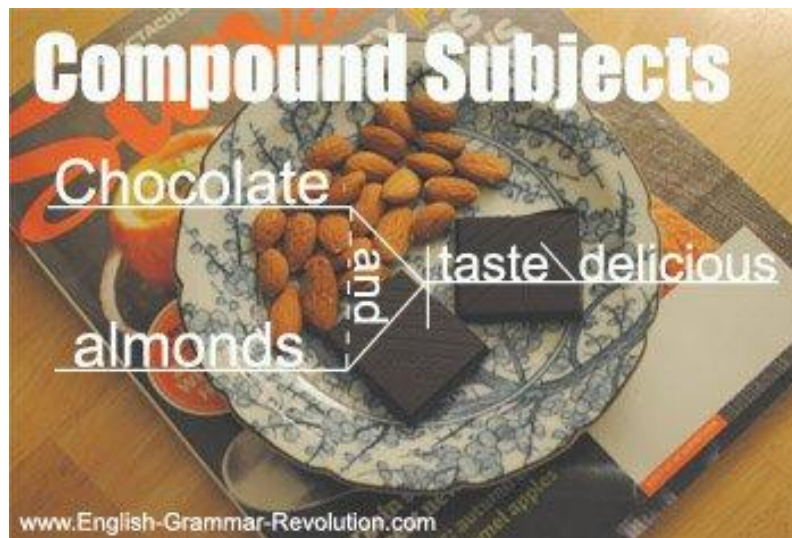
E.g.

1. **In order that**

He applied for a job **in order that** he might help his father.

2. **On condition that**

I can lend you the money **on condition that** you return it in a month.



3. Co-ordinating Conjunctions

Conjunctions which are used to join together clauses of equal rank are known as Co-ordinating Conjunctions.

E.g. and or
 But also
 foreither – or
 nor neither – nor

THE COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS



A. **And**

She spoke impressively at the meeting **and** won the appreciation of all.

B. **But**

I offered to help her **but** she refused my help.

C. **For**

I must try hard **for** there is heavy competition.

1. Position of correlative conjunctions

- “He gave me **not only food but also shelter.**” In this sentence the use of '**not only**' and '**but also**' is correct because in the first part of the sentence **not only** is used before the noun **food** and **but also** is used in the second part of the sentence before the noun **shelter**.

The above sentence would be wrong if we write it as follows-

He **not only gave** me food **but also** shelter. The error in this sentence is that not only is used before a **verb** but also before a **noun**.



2. Either.....or/Neither.....nor

- **Either** **or** and **neither** **nor** can be used as conjunctions and also as pronouns and adjectives. As persons or things, but as conjunctions they can be used for two or more than two. In other words, as correlative conjunctions they can be used for two or more than two persons or things.

e.g. **Either** you **or** your brother will have to do it.

Neither the capital **nor** his team turned up in time.

3. Not neither ... or

- After **not either** we should use **or** (not **nor**).

e.g. He is **not either** loyal **or** faithful to me.



4. No/Not/Never or

- If in a sentence there comes **no/not/never**, and after them a full clause, the clause would be connected by the conjunction **or**, not **nor**.

e.g.

1. There was **no** tree **or** bush that could give him some shade.
2. There was **not** a man **or** a woman that survived the flood.
3. I **never** met him **or** even heard of him before.

5. Until/Unless

- Both these are **negative conjunctions**, therefore no negative expression (as not, never etc.) should be used with them, otherwise there would be the fault or double negatives.

Note: Here it should be remembered that **until** is a conjunction of time, while **unless** is a conjunction of condition. They should not be used in each other's place.

e.g. I shall not go **until** I have finished my work.

I cannot solve this problem **unless** you help me.

6. Other/Rather Than

- After **other/rather** and most of comparative degree adjectives the conjunction **than** is used.

e.g. I would **rather** go **than** stay at home.

There I saw no one **other than** your father.

7. Whether/If

- After whether/if we use the conjunction 'or not' or 'or no'.

e.g. I do not know whether (or if) he has gone or not.

Note: (i) If a negative or an interrogative sentence has to be made with doubt or doubtful, we should use the conjunction '**that**' in place of **whether/or**.

e.g. I **do not doubt that** he will help me.

(ii) Some times, by mistake some people use **as to** before whether. **This is a mistake.**

e.g. I do not know **as to whether** he is honest or not. (Wrong)

8. The reason is/the reason why

- Some sentences begin with 'The reason is' or 'The reason why'. In such sentences the clause coming after them should be connected with the conjunction 'that', not with because, due to or owing to.

e.g. The **reason** for his failure **is that** he was not serious about his studies.

Before

- When 'before' is used as a conjunction, it points to some future event or statement, but future tense is not used with it, even if its principal clause is in the future tense.

e.g. He will not vacate the house before a month has passed.

As if/As though

- Both these are **imaginary or conditional expressions**. We should, therefore, **use past conditional tense** after them, not present or future tense.

e.g. He behaved with me **as if** he **were** my boss.

He jumped into the well **as though** he **were** a frog.

Because/in order that

- We use '**because**' to show reason and '**in order that**' to show purpose.

e.g. He was punished **because** he was dishonest.

I came **so** early **in order that** I may meet you.

Since (showing time)

- When '**since**' is used as a conjunction, we should use the verb in the **present perfect tense** before it and in **past indefinite tense** after it.

e.g. I **have never seen** him **since** his father died.

Or (showing alternative or choice)

- Conjunction '**or**' is used to choose one of two or more than two things.

e.g. you can go to Kanpur **or** Lucknow.

While

- While is used in two senses.
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 - II. To suggest at the same time or along with.

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Because/For/Since

- All these three words show **cause or reason**. The difference in their use is that **because** has very great force in it, **for** has the least force and **since** comes between the two.

e.g. The train was derailed **because** the track had been damaged.

The child could not sleep **for** it was very hot.

He could not catch me up **since** he was lazy.

That

- Conjunction **that** is used in the following forms:
 - a. In indirect narration – As conjunction '**that**' is used only in indirect narration, not in direct narration.

e.g. He said **that** he was ill.

- b. '**That**' as conjunction is not used in interrogative, imperative or exclamatory clauses, whether the whole sentence is in the direct or indirect narration.

e.g. He asked me **that** why I was late.

- c. '**That**' as conjunction is not used in clauses beginning with interrogative pronouns (**which, who, what** etc.) or interrogative adverbs (**where, why, when, how**, etc.). The use of 'that' in the following example is wrong.

e.g. He asked that what the time was?

Note: But if after the clauses beginning with interrogative pronouns or interrogative adverbs, there comes the principal clause, the conjunction 'that' will be used.

e.g. 'I promise **that when** I come next I will bring your book'.

In this sentence the use of that before when is correct because after the clause beginning with when, there comes the principal clause 'I will bring your book'.

FUNCTIONAL CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions of comparison

- The following conjunctions show comparison.
as as, not so/as as, than (with comparative degree adjective)
e.g. He is **not so** rich **as** your father.

Conjunctions of concession

- They are – though, although, even if, for all, no matter, however, whatever, adjective/adverb + as.
- e.g. **Though** he is rich, he is gentle.

Conjunctions of condition

- The following are conjunctions of condition.
If, unless, provided, provided that, in case, supposing that
e.g. You will be promoted **provided that** you are efficient.
Unless you are efficient, you will not be promoted.

Conjunctions of cause

- The following conjunctions show cause.
- because, since, as, for, that, considering that, seeing that, now that, in that, in as much as, noun + that, adjective + that.
e.g. I will do it alone **in case** he does not come for my help.
Considering that it was very dark, we did not move out.

Conjunctions of time

- The following are conjunctions of time.

e.g.

- He closed the door **as soon as** his son arrived.
- He has been in contact with me **since** he was a college student.

Conditional conjunctions and the tense

- Conditional or supposition sentences can be written in three tenses.
 - a. Simple future tense
 - e.g.** If you are loyal, I shall stand by you.
 - b. Simple past tense
 - e.g.** If I built a market-complex, I would give you a shop free of cost.
 - c. Past perfect tense
 - e.g.** If I had known him before, I would have learnt much from him.