

11 Conjunctions

Get cracking

Imagine you are on a trek in the Himalayas with a friend. Your bag is very heavy and your friend is helping you to take your things out of it so that you can take them up a steep rock in easy batches.

Here is what you two are talking about. Fill in the blanks with suitable conjunctions from the given box.



• either...or also neither...nor but and •

- You : Give me the water jug _____ the glass first.
- Your friend : Shall I pass on the food items _____?
- You : No. Give me _____ the food items _____
the water. Not both.
- Friend : What about the compass _____ camera?
- You : I'll take the compass now, _____ will take the
camera later.
- Friend : How about the raincoat and umbrella?
- You : It is quite sunny at the moment. I need _____ the
raincoat _____ the umbrella right away.



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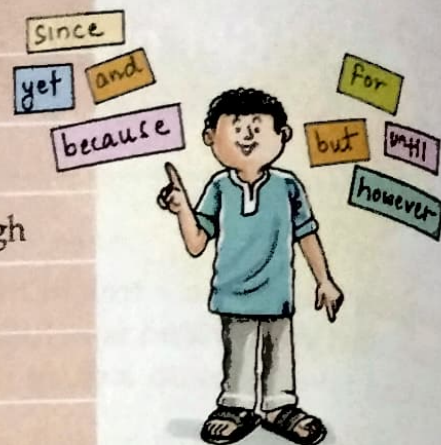


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We already know that a conjunction connects (conjoins) parts of a sentence or two sentences. Here is a list of common conjunctions.

and	whenever	wherever	so that
or	while	because	that
but	after	as	though
yet	before	since	although
so	till	if	even though
either ... or	until	unless	even if
neither ... nor	as soon as	in case	as if
when	where	than	as though



A few conjunctions (and, but, or) join words or groups of words. Other conjunctions always join groups of words.

We use **and** to connect two similar ideas.

I had bread **and** coffee for breakfast.

She has two daughters **and** a son.

He sold his motorbike **and** bought a car.

We use **or** to talk about alternatives.

Would you like tea **or** coffee?

I will see him this evening **or** tomorrow morning.

Shall we walk **or** take a bus?

Note the use of **either ... or** and **neither ... nor**.

I don't like **either** tea **or** coffee.

I like **neither** tea **nor** coffee.

We also use **or** to mean *if not*.

Hurry up **or** you will be late for school.

Wear a sweater **or** you will catch cold.

We use **but** to join two different or opposite ideas.

He was ill **but** cheerful.

We invited Nisha **but** she didn't come.

I tried to call him **but** his number was engaged.

We use **yet** to mean *in spite of that*.

He worked hard, **yet** didn't pass the exam.

We started late, **yet** we arrived on time.



We use **so** to talk about result.

I got up late, **so** I missed the first bus.

He didn't study hard, **so** he failed the exam.

We also use **so** **that** to talk about result. **That** is often left out in spoken English.

I was **so** tired (that) I fell asleep in the chair.

The film was **so** good **that** we went to see it again.

He spoke **so** fast **that** I couldn't understand him.

The conjunctions **when**, **while**, **whenever**, **as**, **before**, **after**, **as soon as**, **till**, **until**, **since**, and **so** on are used to talk about time relationships.

The crowd cheered loudly **when** the Prime Minister arrived.

The phone rang **while** I was having a shower.

She waved to me **as** the train left the station.

The train had left **before** they arrived at the station.

Ring me up **as soon as** you arrive.

We waited **till** it stopped raining.

It is nearly two years **since** we saw him.

We use **where** and **wherever** to talk about a position or place.

Put it back **where** you found it.

You may sit **wherever** you like.

Please come to my house
whenever you are free.



We use **so** **that** to talk about purpose. In spoken English, people often just say **so** (without **that**).

I'll give you a map **so** (that) you can get there easily.

My uncle lifted me onto his shoulders **so** (that) I could see over other people's heads.

We can also use **in order** **that**, but today it is not used except in a very formal style. To talk about reason we use **because**, **as**, **since**, and **so** on.

She phoned the police **because** she lost her handbag.

He didn't go to the party **as** he was ill.

Since I had a lot of work to do at home, I didn't have time to come.

We use **in case** to talk about doing something because something else might happen later. **In case** means *because ... might*.

Take an umbrella **in case** it rains. (because it might rain later.)

I'll leave you my phone number **in case** you want to contact me. (because you might want to contact me later.)

If is used to say that one thing will or might happen, depending on another thing happening.

We can also use **unless** (if ... not).

If it rains, we will postpone our trip.

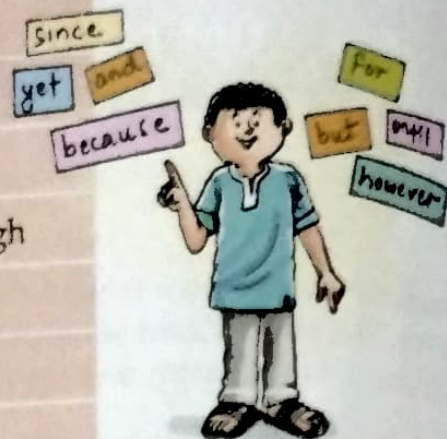
We will be late **if** we don't hurry.

We will be late **unless** we hurry.

Don't wake me up **unless** it is really necessary.

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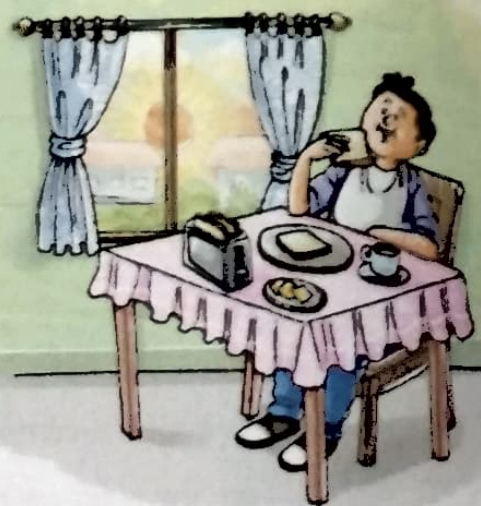
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As, as if and as though answer the question "how?"

Do as I tell you.

He looked as if/as though he hadn't slept well.

She felt as if/as though she had fever.

When we want to contrast two statements, we use *though*, *although*, *even though* and *even if*.
Even though is stronger than *though/although*. *Even if* means *whether or not*.

They went out *though* it was raining.

Although it is hard work, I enjoy the job.

Even though I didn't know anybody at the party, I had a nice time.

Even if you take a taxi, you will still miss your train.

We use *as* and *than* to talk about comparison or degree.

She is not as clever as she appears to be.

The hotel was not as good as we expected.

He is older than I thought.

As you must have seen, some conjunctions (e.g. *as*, *since*) can be used in more than one sense.

Underline the correct conjunction given in the brackets.

1. The watch is cheap, (or/yet) it works very well.
2. We stayed at home (and/but) watched a video.
3. I saw him (but/or) he didn't see me.
4. Walk fast (but/or) you will miss the bus.
5. He is very old, (yet/so) he can walk fast.
6. It is a long time (when/since) we met.
7. (Though/As) they are rich, they live very simply.
8. She behaves (even though/as though) she owns the place.
9. He is not as old (as/than) I thought.
10. He dressed so quickly (that/as) he put his shoes on the wrong feet.
11. Be careful (since/when) you cross the road.
12. The train suddenly started moving (till/as) I was getting on.
13. He gave up his seat on the bus (so that/because) a woman with a baby could sit down.
14. It was his birthday (because/so) we decided to buy him a present.
15. I will write down the address (so that/in case) I forget it.
16. The bag was so heavy (that/as) I couldn't carry it.
17. I did (so/as) he told me.
18. I will get there, (if/even if) I have to walk.
19. They went out for a walk (even though/in case) the weather was bad.
20. They have put broken glass on top of the walls (because/so that) thieves don't get in.