

Is **therefore** an adverb, a conjunction, or a hybrid between an adverb and a conjunction, an 11th part of speech if you will?

ADVERBS & THEIR NATURE

There are more concepts than words but each word represents a concept and each concept has a definition.

Since *adverb* is a word, it has a definition. This is it:

DEFINITION

• **Adverbs** are words which qualify (1)verbs, (2)adjectives, (3)other adverbs, and (4)sentences, and answer to the following questions: (a)where, (b)when, (c)how, (d)how much, (e)in what way, (f)to what extent, or (g)to the sentence itself.

Adverb

🌐 100 languages ▾

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

An **adverb** is a word or an expression that generally **modifies** a **verb**, **adjective**, another adverb, **determiner**, **clause**, **preposition**, or **sentence**. Adverbs typically express manner, place, time, frequency, degree, level of certainty, etc., answering questions such as *how*, *in what way*, *when*, *where*, *to what extent*. This is called the **adverbial** function and may be performed by single words (adverbs) or by multi-word **adverbial phrases** and **adverbial clauses**.

Adverbs are traditionally regarded as one of the **parts of speech**. Modern linguists note that the term "adverb" has come to be used as a kind of "catch-all" category, used to classify words with various types of **syntactic** behavior, not necessarily having much in common except that they do not fit into any of the other available categories (noun, adjective, preposition, etc.) ^[1]

There are 10 parts of speech. Adverbs is one of the parts of speech.

The parts of speech are language-independent, which means that, for example, the **concept** which **therefore** represents is a conjunction in all the languages of the world, the reason being that **therefore** always assigns a **cause-effect** or **aetiological** relationship regardless of the language.

therefore does not fit the definition of an adverb but, as we shall see, it does fit the definition of a conjunction, which is another part of speech.

Synonyms of *therefore* are: (a) *that's why* and (b) *for this reason*.

EXAMPLES OF ADVERBS

The **red** qualifies the **blue**.

1. He **dances** **beautifully**.

It qualifies a *verb* and answers to *how*:

— How does he dance?

— Beautifully.

2. They are **absolutely** **ready**.

It qualifies an *adjective* and answers to *to what extent*:

— To what extent are they ready?

— Absolutely ready.

3. He runs **incredibly** **fast**.

It qualifies an *another adverb* and answers to *how*:

— How does he run?

— Incredibly fast.

4. **Maybe** **we are not aware of all the facts**.

It qualifies a *sentence* and answers to *the sentence itself*:

— Are we aware of all the facts?

— Maybe not.

All 4 examples conform to the definition of adverbs.

Now, let us take a look at **therefore**:

Example:

We have always been honest with each other. **Therefore**, we have become very good friends.

If *therefore* were an adverb, it would be the answer to at least one of the questions adverbs answer. Let us see if that is the case:

a. where

— Where have we become friends?

— Therefore.

Clearly, the above does not make any sense.

b. when

— When have we become friends?

— Therefore.

Clearly, the above does not make any sense.

c. how

— How have we become friends?

— Therefore.

Clearly, the above does not make any sense.

d. how much

— How much have we become friends?

— Therefore.

Clearly, the above does not make any sense.

e. in what way

— In what way have we become friends?

— Therefore.

Clearly, the above does not make any sense.

f. to what extent

— To what extent have we become friends?

— Therefore.

Clearly, the above does not make any sense.

g. the sentence itself

— Have we become friends?

— Therefore.

Clearly, the above does not make any sense.

None of the 7 examples conforms to the definition of adverbs.

Conclusion: **therefore** does not fit the definition of adverbs.

CONJUNCTIONS & THEIR NATURE

The prevalent definition of *conjunctions* is ridiculously simplistic:

Conjunctions are words that connect *words*, *phrases*, or *clauses*.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Not to be confused with Grammatical conjugation or Conjunctive mood.

In **grammar**, a **conjunction** (abbreviated **CONJ** or **CNJ**) is a **part of speech** that connects **words**, **phrases**, or **clauses** that are called the **conjuncts** of the conjunctions. That definition may overlap with that of other parts of speech, and so what constitutes a "conjunction" must be defined for each **language**. In English, a given word may have several **senses**, and be either a **preposition** or a conjunction depending on the syntax of the sentence. For example, *after* is a preposition in "he left after the fight" but is a conjunction in "he left after they fought". In general, a conjunction is an invariable (non-inflected) **grammatical particle** that may or may not stand between the items conjoined.

The definition of conjunction may also be extended to idiomatic phrases that behave as a unit with the same function, e.g. "as well as", "provided that".

A simple literary example of a conjunction is "the truth of nature, *and* the power of giving interest" (Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *Biographia Literaria*).^[1]

A conjunction may be placed at the beginning of a sentence to c:^[2] "*But* some superstition about the practice persists."^[3]

The definition in the screenshot above is severely flawed because it leaves out the most substantial property of conjunctions, namely the fact that conjunctions do not merely connect clauses but they assign the fundamental nature of the relationship between *words*, *phrases*, and *clauses*.

This is the valid definition of *conjunctions*:

DEFINITION

- **Conjunctions** are words that assign the fundamental relationship between *words*, *phrases*, and *clauses*.

It is noteworthy that conjunctions are both *punctuation and position/word order independent*, which means that punctuation and position/word order play no antagonistic role as far as their function in a given context is concerned.

We have to keep in mind that the foundation and source of all grammar and syntaxis is Classical Greek. In written Classical Greek there were no spaces used, nor were there lower case letters or punctuation. Despite that, it was in Classical Greek that countless complicated philosophical, political, mathematical, astronomical, and scientific concepts were rendered in writing with unparalleled clarity.

We can see below a list of Classical Greek conjunctions where **therefore** is clearly classified as a conjunction.

<https://www.publicconsulting.com/wordpress/ancientgreek/chapter/11-conjunctions/>

Vocabulary

- AND
 - καί
 - ὅτε (postpositive)
 - μέν...δέ (postpositive)
 - τε (enclitic)
- AND NOT
 - μήτε (with infinitives)
 - οὔτε (with indicatives)
- BUT
 - ἀλλά
 - ὅτε (postpositive)
 - μέν...δέ (postpositive)
- OR
 - ἢ
 - εἴτε... εἴτε either...or
 - μήτε... μήτε neither...nor (with infinitives)
 - οὔτε... οὔτε neither...nor (with indicative)
- BECAUSE
 - γάρ (postpositive)
 - ὅτι
- THEREFORE
 - ἄρα
 - οὖν (postpositive)
 - τοίνυν (postpositive)
- OTHER CONJUNCTIONS:
 - εἰ, εἰτέp if
 - ἐπει after, since, when
 - ἕως until, while
 - ἔνα where
 - μέχρι until
 - ὅθεν from where
 - ὅτε when
 - πρίν (w/indicative verbs) until; (w/infinite verbs) before
 - ὥς as

Example:

We have always been honest with each other. **Therefore**, we have become very close friends.

therefore here assigns the fundamental relationship between two clauses, namely the main clause, *We have always been honest with each other.* and the subordinate clause, *we have become very close friends.* In this instance, that fundamental relationship is **cause** and **effect**. *We have always been honest with each other* is the **cause**, and *we have become very close friends* is the **effect**. It is **therefore** the word which assigns that relationship between the two clauses. That's why **therefore** is a *cause-and-effect* conjunction or an *aetiological* conjunction. *aetiology* means "how a cause relates." *aetia* / *AITIA* = cause. (Greek)

English Dictionary ▾ Sentences Grammar

Definition of 'aetiological'

aetiological

in British English

or etiological (,i:trəˈlɒdʒɪkəl ⓘ)

ADJECTIVE

1. of or relating to aetiology

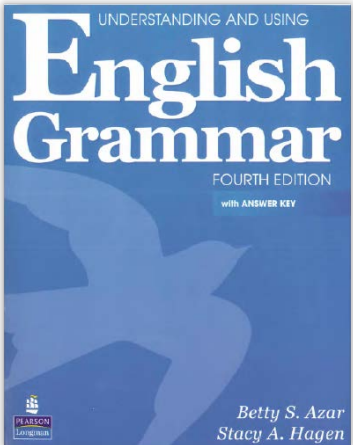
2. philosophy
(of an explanation) in terms of causal precedents, as opposed, for instance, to the intentions of an agent

Word Frequency 🔴 🔴 🔴 🔴 🔴

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/aetiological>

We see, then, how neatly **therefore** fits the definition of a conjunction.

19-9 SUMMARY OF CONNECTIVES: CAUSE AND EFFECT, CONTRAST, CONDITION					
	ADVERB CLAUSE WORDS		TRANSITIONS	CONJUNCTIONS	PREPOSITIONS
CAUSE AND EFFECT	<i>because</i> <i>since</i> <i>now that</i>	<i>so (that)</i>	<i>therefore</i> <i>consequently</i>	<i>so</i> <i>for</i>	<i>because of</i> <i>due to</i>
CONTRAST	<i>even though</i> <i>although</i> <i>though</i>	<i>whereas</i> <i>while</i>	<i>however</i> <i>nevertheless</i> <i>nonetheless</i> <i>on the other hand</i>	<i>but (... anyway)</i> <i>yet (... still)</i>	<i>despite</i> <i>in spite of</i>
CONDITION	<i>if</i> <i>unless</i> <i>only if</i> <i>even if</i> <i>whether or not</i>	<i>in case</i> <i>in the event that</i>	<i>otherwise</i>	<i>or (else)</i>	



In the above table, which is perhaps the best English grammar book in the market, we can see that an 11th part of speech has been invented, namely that of *transitions*. So, **therefore** is neither an adverb nor a conjunction but, instead, a **transition**!

7 Matching: Adverbiers betydning

Hvad betyder adverbierne? Find den rette betydning, og sæt streger.

desuden

alligevel

derefter

desværre

nemlig

derfor

tidsfølge

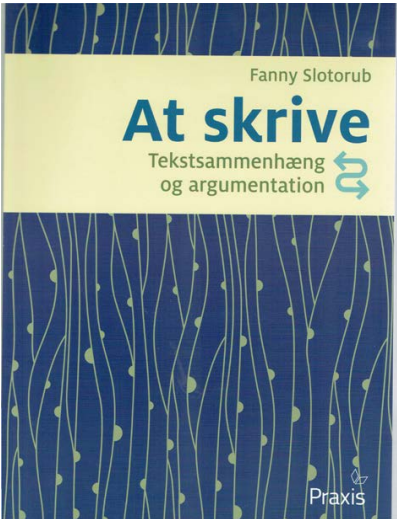
en forklaring

en konsekvens

en tilføjelse / ny information

en modsætning

en holdning



In yet another book, which is used in Sprogcenters in Denmark, **derfor** is listed as an adverb. *derfor* is the Danish word for *therefore*.

Examples of Conjunctive adverbs

The conjunctive adverbs in the following examples are in bold for easy identification.

EX.

1. Jeremy kept talking in class; **therefore**, he got in trouble.
2. She went into the store; **however**, she didn't find anything she wanted to buy.
3. I like you a lot; **in fact**, I think we should be best friends.
4. Your dog got into my yard; **in addition**, he dug up my petunias.
5. You're my friend; **nonetheless**, I feel like you're taking advantage of me.
6. My car payments are high; **on the other hand**, I really enjoy driving such a nice vehicle.

Furthermore, in various websites, such as <https://www.gingersoftware.com/content/grammar-rules/conjunctions/conjunctive-adverbs/>, **therefore** is referred to as a **Conjunctive Adverb**! Wow! What an invention!

So, what is it going to be? A transition? An Adverb? A Conjunctive Adverb?

The confusion is obvious!

It seems **therefore** is called anything except what it is, which is a conjunction.

Who felt compelled to come up with a new part of speech and why?

Well, usually, certain academics, and not just a handful of them, confuse prestige and fancy titles with knowledge. When they feel they fail to grasp the nature of a phenomenon or a concept, they cover up for their inadequacy by inventing meaningless and redundant concepts. I feel pretty sure that is how "transitions" and "conjunctive adverbs" and "adverb clause words" came to be. Once that happens, all the academics in the field adopt the term blindly without bothering to examine the matter further and, it goes without saying, that such attitudes breed ignorance.

This is the reason, in my opinion, that it is a great idea for everyone to refrain from using titles, such as professor, which are likely to obfuscate the critical thinking of interlocutors or the audience. We can just say instead that we are fairly knowledgeable in something.

The truth is that in table 19-9 above, we have just two parts of speech: (a) prepositions in the last column and (b) the remaining 3 columns are simply conjunctions. The 1st column and the 2nd column have been invented just because the concept of *conjunction* has been understood desperately poorly by those *great* grammar academics.

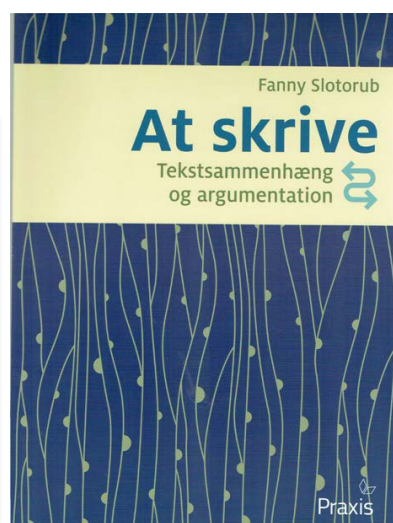
In Danish, there are also problems with **for**

While researching the problem regarding **derfor**, I realized that Danish grammarians, among others, consider the clauses starting with **for** to be main clauses. The reason? Just because the word order of the clauses beginning with **for** is identical to the word order of the main clauses.

4 Matching: Hovedsætningskonjunktioners betydning side 8

• Hvad betyder hovedsætningskonjunktionerne?
Find den rette betydning, og sæt streger.

og	en modsætning / kontrast
men	en konsekvens / følge
eller	en forklaring
for	en sideordning / tilføjelse
så	et alternativ / en anden mulighed



It needs to be emphasized here again that word order and punctuation are language dependent, but the nature of grammatical concepts is language independent. It turns out that Danish grammarians prioritize word order over definition of concept.

What is the definition of a main clause?

DEFINITION

• A **main or independent clause** is a clause which can stand on its own.

A main clause is not in need of more information to make sense. That is what makes a clause main, and that does not differ from language to language.

Let us examine an example in Danish:

Han er spansk, for han taler spansk. (He must be Spanish, since he speaks Spanish.)

Han er spansk can stand on its own and, therefore, it is a main clause. On the other hand, *For han taler spansk* cannot stand on its own and, therefore, it is a subordinate/dependent clause, no matter the word order or the punctuation.

DEFINITION

• **Dependent or subordinate clauses** are clauses which depend on the information provided in the main clause to make sense.

That does not change, no matter what the word order or the punctuation is.

Consider these two very short dialogs in Danish (forgive my Danish):

Jill
— God morgen, Joe.

Joe
— God morgen, Jill. Du ved, **den fyr** vi mødte i aftes **er spansk**.

Jill
— Virkelig!

(communication flows without any problems)

Jill
— God morgen, Joe.

Joe
— God morgen, Jill. **For han taler spansk**.

Jill
— Hvad snakker du om?

(communication broke down)

Conclusion: **for** introduces subordinate clauses even though the word order of those clauses is identical to the word order of main clauses, which is fine because word order and punctuation can and, very often, do differ from language to language, whereas definition of grammatical concept is language independent and cannot differ from language to language because, if it did, the logic of the language would break down.

To conclude, the same thing holds true for **derfor**. In Danish, the clauses introduced by adverbs undergo *inversion*. It so happens that clauses introduced by **derfor** also undergo *inversion*, which prompts Danish grammarians to readily proclaim that **derfor** is an adverb.

Danish grammarians assume that since clauses introduced by **derfor** undergo inversion, it follows that **derfor** is an adverb since clauses introduced by adverbs also undergo *inversion*.

But the logic is flawed.

The fact that clauses introduced by **derfor** undergo *inversion* even though **derfor** is a conjunction is nothing more than a linguistic peculiarity to the Danish language.

It cannot be otherwise because, if it were, the basic language structure would unravel into total disarray, and inventing *new* superfluous parts of speech is the first indication that things are getting out of hand. An unmistakable linguistic sign attesting to the general decadence of the times we live in.

A subject is a subject, no matter the language; and a dependent clause is a dependent clause, no matter the language and so on and so forth.

Of course, **derfor** is a conjunction. The only thing **derfor** and **adverbs** have in common is that when they introduce a clause, that clause undergoes *inversion*. But word order cannot define the **concept of conjunction**; that would be ridiculously simplistic and superficial.

Conclusion: Remember to prioritize grammatical definition of concept over word order/position and punctuation, not the other way around.

Parts of speech are neither determined nor defined by their position in a clause. That would be a ridiculously unfounded notion. A *verb* is a verb no matter what its position, and the same holds for all parts of speech. It's the function of a word in a clause that determines what part of speech a word is, and that in turn, depends on the criteria as outlined in the definition of each part of speech. That is it.

By the way, **horistics** is the art of defining.

All teachers across Denmark are invited to read this article at horistics.com/adverbs.pdf