

A **conjunction** is a word that connects words, phrases, or clauses. It acts as a linguistic bridge, showing the relationship between the connected ideas and helping to create a smooth and logical flow in a sentence or paragraph.

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## Types of Conjunctions

There are three main types of conjunctions, each serving a different purpose.

1. **Coordinating Conjunctions** These connect two or more grammatically equal elements. A good way to remember them is with the acronym **FANBOYS**: **F**or, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, **S**o.
  - **And**: Adds information. (e.g., "I like tea **and** coffee.")
  - **But**: Shows a contrast. (e.g., "The weather was bad, **but** we still went out.")
  - **So**: Indicates a result. (e.g., "He was tired, **so** he went to bed.")
2. **Subordinating Conjunctions** These connect a dependent (or subordinate) clause to an independent (or main) clause. They introduce the dependent clause and show the relationship between the two. Common examples include *because*, *although*, *since*, *while*, *if*, *when*, *after*.
  - **Because**: Shows cause and effect. (e.g., "I came inside **because** it was raining.")
  - **Although**: Shows a contrast. (e.g., "**Although** he studied hard, he failed the test.")
  - **If**: Introduces a condition. (e.g., "I'll go to the party **if** you go with me.")
3. **Correlative Conjunctions** These are pairs of conjunctions that work together to connect grammatically equal elements. Common pairs include *either/or*, *neither/nor*, *not only/but also*, *both/and*.
  - **Both/and**: Connects two items. (e.g., "**Both** the cats **and** the dogs need to be fed.")
  - **Not only/but also**: Adds emphasis. (e.g., "**Not only** is she a talented singer, **but also** a great dancer.")

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## Conjunctions in Discourse

Conjunctions are a key part of **cohesion**, one of the ways that sentences are formally linked together to create a unified text. They act as **formal links**, providing explicit signals that help a reader or listener follow the logical flow of ideas, whether it's showing a cause, a contrast, or a sequence of events.