

12. Conjunctions

A word that combines two or more words of the same part of the speech or that joins two clauses together is called a conjunction. Conjunctions are subdivided into two classes:

CO-ORDINATING:

The conjunction, that join words, phrases or clauses of equal rank are called co-ordinating conjunctions. These conjunctions are of four different kinds:

1. **Cumulative:** These conjunctions are useful to add one statement or fact, simply to another. These conjunctions are, "And, Both, And, As well as, Not only, But also".

Example:

- He was not only accused, but also convicted.
- He is guilty as well as you.

2. **Alternative:** These conjunctions combine the statements by offering a choice between one statement and another. The chief conjunctions are, "Either-Or", "Neither-Nor".

Example: He was neither an idler nor a gambler.

3. **Adversative:** These conjunctions combine the statements or facts that are contrasted with or set against another. The chief conjunctions are, "But, Whereas, While, Only".

Example:

- Wise men love truth, whereas fools shun it.
- Go where you like, only do not stay here.

4. **Illustrative:** This conjunction combines two statements in which the fact in one statement is inferred or proved from another. The Chief conjunction is "for".

Example: He will die someday, for all men are mortal.

Sub-Ordinating Conjunctions:

A clause that depends upon the other with the force of a noun, adjective or adverb through a conjunction is called a subordinate clause. The conjunctions that are used to connect subordinating clauses to principal clauses, are called subordinating conjunctions. The chief subordinating conjunctions are:

- Those introducing clauses which are used like nouns "That".
- Those introducing clauses which are used like adverbs.

- **Of Time:** When, Whenever, Why, As, Before, After, Since, Until, Till Etc.
- **Of Place:** Where, Wherever, Whence (from where), Whither (to where)
- **Of Cause or Reason:** Because since as that
- **Of Purpose:** That, Lest (if not)
- **Of Result or Consequence:** That
- **Of Condition:** If, Unless, Whether
- **Of Concession:** Though, Although
- **Of Comparison:** Than, As
- **Of Extent or Manner:** As

Those introducing clauses which are used like adjectives: Who, Whom, Whose, Which, That, As, What, But, etc. (all the relative clauses or adjective clauses)

About more Conjunctions:

- "No sooner" is always followed by "than" and never by "but"
- "scarcely" and "hardly" are followed by "when"
- Usage of until, as long as, while: To express "time before" we use "until" – to express time
- "how long" we use "as long as" or "while".

Example:

- I waited for my friend until he came.
- As long as you work hard, you will improve.
- Use unless, If: The conjunction "unless" means "if not". "If" is a conjunction of condition.

Example:

- I shall not do the work unless you pay me more money.
- If you do not work hard, you will not get the result.
- Usage of "Lest": (Lest = if not) When this conjunction is in a sentence, the principal verb in the subordinate clause must be preceded by the helping verb "should".

Example: Work hard lest you should fail.

- Because, in order that: To express a "cause or reason", we use "because". To express a "purpose" we use "in order that", "so that".

Example:

- He passed the examination because he had worked hard.
- He took the medicine so that he might get well.
- He started early in order that he might not be late.

- “Since” as a conjunction: When it is used as a conjunction, it is always followed by a verb in the simple past tense.

Example: This is a week since the holidays began.

- The word “than” not only follows adjectives in the comparatives but also the words “rather” and “other”.

Example:

- I would rather have the picture than the pen.
 - He is no other than my brother.
- Correlative Conjunctions: These are the conjunctions that go in pairs, they are, “Either – Or” , “Neither - Nor”, “Not only – But also”, “Both-And “, “Whether - Or”

