Conjunctions:

A **conjunction** is a closed-class grammatical particle that connects words, phrases, or clauses.

Its primary function is not merely to join, but to establish a precise **logical relationship** between the elements it connects. These relationships can be of addition, contrast, cause, condition, purpose, and more.

Tier 1: Connecting Words

the words being joined must be grammatically parallel (of the same type). Noun with noun, adjective with adjective.

Examples:

1. He bought bread **and** butter.
2. The journey was long **but** rewarding.
3. She works quickly **and** efficiently.
4. Should I call **or** text you?

Tier 2: Connecting Phrases

Conjunctions link these units, again demanding parallelism.

Examples:

1. He drove over the bridge **and** through the tunnel.
2. The plan was to finish early **but** to maintain quality.
3. Running a marathon **and** climbing a mountain are on my bucket list.

Tier 3: Connecting Clauses

This is where the real action is. A clause has a subject and a verb. Conjunctions here connect complete or incomplete thoughts.

Examples:

1. [She wanted to leave], **but** [he persuaded her to stay].
2. [I will help you] **if** [you tell me the truth].
3. **Although** [the car is old], [it still runs perfectly].
4. [He failed the test] **because** [he didn't study].

Tier 4: Connecting Sentences

This is more a stylistic function, common in modern prose. A coordinating conjunction FANBOYS] can begin a sentence to create a strong, logical link to the preceding one. Don't let old-school teachers tell you it's a "mistake." It's not. It's a choice.

Examples:

1. The company posted record profits last quarter. **Yet**, its stock price has been falling.
2. He had been warned about the storm several times. **But** he decided to go sailing anyway.

Conjunctions of CONTRAST (Adversative)

An **adversative conjunction** is a conjunction that connects two clauses or ideas that are in opposition or contrast to each other. It signals that the second idea is unexpected or contrary to what the first idea would lead one to expect.

Think of it as the "however" or the "on the other hand" signal. It tells the reader to reverse their expectations.

But, Yet, Still

These are the everyday workhorses of contrast.

But: The most common and neutral choice for showing direct opposition.

Yet: Stronger than **but**. It implies a sense of surprise or defiance in the face of the first idea. It often carries a "despite this" feeling.

Still: Emphasizes that the second idea persists or continues despite the first. It focuses on the endurance of the second idea.

1. **But:**

a) The movie received terrible reviews, **but** I decided to watch it anyway.

b) He is a talented musician, **but** he lacks the discipline to practice.

c) The data seems correct, **but** my intuition tells me something is wrong.

2. **Yet:**

1. It's a very simple plan, **yet** it's surprisingly effective. (Implies surprise)
2. He has every advantage, **yet** he never seems to be content. (Implies defiance of expectation)
3. The story is bizarre, **yet** I believe every word of it.

3. **Still:** (Note: Often acts with another conjunction or as an adverb, but its *function* is contrastive.)

a) He deceived me, still I trust him. (Emphasizes the persistence of trust)

b) The team was exhausted. Still, they found the energy for one last push.

c) She lost the argument, still she refused to change her mind.

d) It's a risky investment; **still**, the potential rewards are enormous.

Although, Though, Even Though, Even if

These are subordinating conjunctions. They introduce a dependent clause that contains the "obstacle" or the "concession," which the main clause then defies.

Although / Though: Standard and interchangeable. They introduce a fact that contrasts with the main clause. Though is slightly more common in informal speech.

Even though: More emphatic than although. It adds a layer of intensity to the contrast, like highlighting the obstacle.

Even if: The special one. It introduces a **hypothetical** or **unreal condition**. It doesn't state a fact; it imagines one.

1. **Although / Though:**

a) **Although** [he is over seventy], [he still runs marathons].

b) [I enjoyed the concert], **though** [the tickets were expensive].

c) **Although** [the evidence was clear], [the jury acquitted him].

d) [She accepted the job], **though** [she wasn't fully qualified].

2. **Even though:**

a) **Even though** [she was feeling unwell], [she went to work]. (Emphasizes the difficulty)

b) [He kept fighting] **even though** [he knew he would lose]. (Highlights the futility)

c) **Even though** [it was a holiday], [the library was open].

d) [I wouldn't trust him] **even though** [he is my brother].

3. **Even if:** (Notice the "future" or "unreal" feel)

a) **Even if** [you apologize], [I will not forgive you]. (Hypothetical: You might or might not apologize.)

b) [I will finish this project tonight] **even if** [I have to stay up all night]. (Hypothetical condition)

c) **Even if** [he loses his job], [his family will support him]. (As per your text - action is not yet complete.)

d) [The decision is final], **even if** [you disagree with it].

Conjunction (although) vs. Preposition (in spite of / despite)

This is an exam favourite. A trap waiting for the unwary. Both sets of words express contrast, but they are governed by a strict structural rule.

Conjunctions (although, though, even though) must be followed by a **CLAUSE** (Subject + Verb).

Prepositions (in spite of, despite) must be followed by a **NOUN** or a **GERUND (-ing form)**. They are followed by a phrase, not a clause.

a) **Although** [it was raining], we went for a walk.
b) **In spite of** (the rain), we went for a walk.
c) **Despite** (the heavy rain), the game continued.
d) **Although** [he had no experience], he got the job.
e) **Despite** (having no experience), he got the job.

Common Errors

Redundancy: NEVER use **but** or **yet** in the same sentence with although/though. The although already does the job of contrast.

Examples:

a) Although he is poor, but he is honest.(X)
Although he is poor, he is honest.

Note: The Despite of Mistake: Despite NEVER takes of. The phrase is in spite of.

a) Despite of the bad weather...(X)
Despite the bad weather...

Professor's Tip: Think of it like this: **Although** is a storyteller. It needs a full scene (a clause). **Despite** is a headline. It just needs the main topic (a noun/gerund).

Conjunctions of REASON (Causal)

A **causal conjunction** (or conjunction of reason) is a subordinating conjunction that introduces a clause explaining the reason or cause for the action described in the main clause. It directly answers the question "Why?".

Because, As, Since

While all three introduce a reason, they have subtle differences in emphasis. This isn't just a random choice; it's about what part of the sentence you want to put the spotlight on.

1. Because

This is the heavyweight champion of reasons. It is strong, direct, and puts the focus squarely on the reason itself. The reason is the most important piece of new information in the sentence.

a) He sold his car **because** he needed the money. (The main point is the *need for money*.)
b) We chose this hotel **because** it was close to the airport. (The reason—proximity
c) The project failed **because** the planning was inadequate.
d) [She missed the bus] **(Result) + because +** [she woke up late]. **(Reason)**
e) Many people are moving to the city **because** there are more job opportunities.

2. As and Since

They are used when the reason is already known to the listener or is considered less important than the result. The reason is presented as background context. Clauses with **as** and **since** are often placed at the beginning of the sentence.

a) **Since** you are not feeling well, you should go home.

b) **Since** the final exams are next week, the library is open 24/7.

c) I paid for the tickets, **since** I was the one who invited them.

d) **Since** everyone is already here, we can start the meeting.

e) [The game was postponed] **(Result) + since +** [it was raining heavily]. **(Reason)**

As (very similar to since, often interchangeable, but can feel slightly more formal or casual depending on context)

a) **As** it was getting late, we decided to head back.

b) **As** he had forgotten his wallet, I paid for lunch.

c) I couldn't attend the party, **as** I had a prior commitment.

d) **As** the road was blocked, we had to take a detour.

Conjunction (because) vs. Prepositional Phrase (because of / due to)

Here we go again. Examiners live for this stuff because it separates the students who *feel* the grammar from those who *know* the structure.

1. **Prepositions/Prepositional Phrases (because of, due to, owing to)** must be followed by a **NOUN** or a **GERUND (-ing form)**.

a) Because of + (the heavy traffic) (Noun Phrase)

b) Due to + (heavy traffic) (Noun Phrase)

c) We were late **because** [the train was delayed].

d) We were late **because of** (the delayed train)..

e) The flight was cancelled **due to** (bad weather).

Common Errors

The Redundancy Error: The reason... **is because**... is a cardinal sin in formal writing. It's like saing "The reason is for the reason that..."

f) The reason I was late is because my car broke down.(X)

Right: The reason I was late is that my car broke down.

Simpler & Better: I was late because my car broke down.

The Due to Nuance: Strictly speaking, due to means "caused by" and should modify a noun.

g) *Formal:* His success was due to hard work. (due to modifies the noun success).

h) *Informal:* Due to the rain, the match was cancelled. (Here, due to modifies the whole clause, which makes grammar purists cringe.

Because of or **Owing to** is safer at the start of a sentence). While this rule is relaxing in modern English, on a tough exam, stick to the formal usage.

Conjunctions of PURPOSE

These conjunctions explain the intended outcome of an action. They connect what someone does with what they hope to achieve by doing it. They are the language of ambition and intention.

A **conjunction of purpose** introduces a subordinate clause that indicates the objective or goal of the action in the main clause. It specifies the intended result for which an action is performed.

So that, In order that, Lest

1. so that and in order that

These two are the standard-bearers. They are largely interchangeable, though in order that is significantly more formal. They introduce a clause that usually contains a modal verb to express the potential outcome.

Examples:

a) He is working two jobs **so that** he can pay off his debts quickly.

b) She spoke very clearly **so that** everyone could understand her. (Past tense action, past potential)

c) The government passed the law **in order** that the public's safety might be ensured. (Very formal)

d) Please submit the report by Friday **so that** we will have time to review it.

e) [She is saving money] **(Action) + so that +** [she can buy a house]. **(Goal)**

2. lest (The Negative Purpose Conjunction)

This one is a beautiful, old-fashioned, and highly-tested word. Lest means "to avoid the risk of" or "for fear that." It introduces a negative goal—something you want to prevent from happening.

Rule 1: The Modal Partner: lest is almost always followed by the modal verb **should**. Examiners love to replace should with might or will to trap you.

Rule 2: No Double Negatives: lest is inherently negative in its meaning. Therefore, do NOT use not in the clause that follows it.

Examples:

a) He checked his answers carefully, **lest** he should make a careless mistake.

b) She tiptoed out of the room, **lest** she should wake the sleeping baby.

c) Carry an umbrella, **lest** you should get caught in the rain.

d) He never mentioned the failure, **lest** his parents should worry.

e) [Walk carefully] **(Action) + lest +** [you should fall]. **(Goal to be avoided)**

Conjunction (so that) vs. Infinitive of Purpose (in order to)

Conjunction (so that, in order that) is followed by a **CLAUSE** (Subject + Verb).

Infinitive Phrase (in order to, so as to, or just **to)** is followed by the **base form of a verb**. It creates a phrase, not a clause.

Examples:

a) I gave him a map **so that** [he could find the way].

b) I gave him a map **in order to** [help him find the way].

c) The team practiced daily **so that** [they might win] the championship.

d) The team practiced daily **to** [win] the championship.

e) We arrived early **so as to** secure good seats.

Note: When can you use the shorter in order to? When the subject of the main clause is the *same* as the one performing the purpose action. He studies hard... (for him) to pass. But if the subjects are different, you MUST use **so that**.

6.0: Conjunctions of CONDITION

Conditional conjunctions set up a dependency. They say, "This second thing will only happen *on the condition that* this first thing happens." It's the "if...then" logic that runs everything from computer code to life decisions.

A **conditional conjunction** introduces a subordinate clause (the protasis) that states a condition or prerequisite upon which the fulfillment of the main clause (the apodosis) depends.

If vs. Unless

1. if (The Positive Condition)

if introduces the direct condition that must be met for the result to occur. It's the neutral, standard choice.

Rule: The clause following if in a simple future prediction must be in the **Simple Present Tense**. The main clause will be in the Simple Future (will). This is the **First Conditional** structure.

Examples:

1. If it rains tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.
2. The alarm will sound if anyone tries to open that door.
3. If you do not hurry, you will miss the train. (Notice if works with negatives too.)

2. unless (The Negative Condition)

unless is more elegant and powerful. It means **if...not**. It sets the boundary condition—the one thing that, *if it doesn't happen*, the result will.

Rule : No Double Negatives. Because unless already contains the "not," you must NOT add another not in the same clause.

Examples (The Showdown):

1. If you do not study, you will fail.
   Unless you study, you will fail.
2. The company will go bankrupt unless it finds a new investor soon.
3. Don't call me unless it's an emergency.

Common Errors with unless:

Note:The Future Tense Trap: The same rule applies as with if. The unless clause takes the simple present.

1. Unless he will arrive on time...(X)
   Unless he arrives on time...

Provided (that), In case, Supposing

provided (that) / providing (that): A more formal and emphatic version of **if**. It implies a stronger stipulation or a non-negotiable condition.

1. You can borrow my car, provided that you promise to drive carefully.
2. We will sign the contract, providing that all our terms are met.

in case: This is NOT the same as if. This is a classic trap. in case is about taking **precaution**. You do something in advance to prepare for a possibility.

Examples:

a) I'll take an umbrella in case it rains. (You take it now as a precaution, before the rain starts.)

b) Write down my phone number in case you forget it. (You write it now, to prepare for future forgetting.)

c) *Contrast with if:* I'll open the umbrella if it rains. (The action of opening happens *after* the condition is met.)

supposing: Used to introduce an imaginary or hypothetical situation to consider its consequences.

a) Supposing the flight is cancelled, what will we do?

b) Supposing you won the lottery, would you quit your job?

The **If** vs. **Whether**

1. **If** is for a **Condition**.
2. **Whether** is for a **Choice or Doubt** between two or more alternatives. The phrase "or not" is often explicitly stated or implied.

1. I don't know whether I should stay or go. (A choice between two options.)
2. The question is whether the project is feasible (or not). (Expresses doubt about a possibility.)

Corelative Conjuctions

1. either...or (Presents a choice between two options)

a) You can have either tea or coffee.
b) Either you tell me the truth, or I will find out myself.
c) The package will arrive either on Monday or on Tuesday.
d) We can either watch a movie or play a board game.

2. neither...nor (Presents two negative options; the "not this and not that" choice)

a) He is neither my friend nor my enemy.
b) Neither the players nor the coach knew what to do.
c) I will neither help you nor hinder you.
d) It's an interesting match because neither she usually starts conversations nor do I talk too much.

3. both...and (Includes two things together)

a) She speaks both English and French fluently.
b) The new policy affects both students and teachers.
c) He is both a talented artist and a skilled engineer.
d) For this recipe, you need both to chop the vegetables and to preheat the oven.

4. not only...but also (Emphasizes the second point, adding it on top of the first)

a) He is not only famous but also very humble.
b) She not only wrote the script but also directed the movie.
c) The storm caused damage not only to the houses but also to the crops.
d) This book is not only informative but also incredibly entertaining.

The Golden Rule: Place each part of the conjunction **immediately** before the word or phrase it is connecting.

a) He not only opened a hospital but also an orphanage.(X)
He opened not only a hospital but also an orphanage.
b) She can either call you or can send a text.(X)
Parallel: She can either call you or send you a text. (Verb vs. Verb)
c) I neither have the time nor the money. (Verb vs. Noun)(X)
Parallel: I have neither the time nor the money.

Advanced Pairs & Inversion

Now for the big guns. These pairs are about sequence—one thing happening right after another. They are also adverbs, and when they start a sentence, they trigger a special rule.

The So...that vs. Such...that Dilemma

Both of these structures are used to show a cause-and-effect relationship, usually with an element of intensity. "The cause was so extreme, that this was the result." The meaning is similar, but the grammar is completely different. This is a pure structural test.

so is an **adverb**. It modifies adjectives or other adverbs.

such is a **determiner/adjective**. It modifies nouns.

Rules & Structures:

1. The so...that Structure:

Logic: It emphasizes the quality (adjective) or the manner (adverb).

Examples:

a) The coffee was **so hot** that I couldn't drink it. (modifies adjective hot)

b) He ran **so quickly** that no one could catch him. (modifies adverb quickly)

c) The movie was **so boring** that half the audience left. (modifies adjective boring)

d) She was **so absorbed** in her book that she didn't hear the doorbell.

2. The such...that Structure:

Formula: such + [a/an (if singular noun)] + [adjective (optional)] + [noun] + that + [result clause]

Logic: It emphasizes the noun itself, framing it as a certain **type or kind**.

Examples:

a) It was **such a hot day** that we decided to stay indoors. (modifies the noun phrase a hot day)

b) She has **such a beautiful voice** that everyone loves to hear her sing.

c) They are **such good friends** that they are practically inseparable.

d) He told **such a ridiculous lie** that nobody believed him.

3. The Tricky Structure: so + adjective + a/an + noun

This is the advanced trap your teacher hinted at. While such is the normal choice before a noun phrase, a rare alternative structure exists with so.

- **Standard:** It was such a cold day.
- **Alternative:** It was so cold a day.

The Rule: You can use this so structure, but the order is rigid: so + adjective + a/an + noun. You are essentially pulling the adjective forward to emphasize it with so.

Showdown:

1. He is such an intelligent boy.
2. He is so intelligent a boy.

He is so an intelligent boy. (The so must come right before the adjective.) (X)

Preposition vs. Conjunction: Final Distinctions

Like (Preposition) vs. As (Conjunction)

like is a preposition. It means "similar to" and must be followed by a **noun** or **pronoun** (or a noun phrase). It compares **things**.

as is a conjunction. It introduces a **clause** and compares **actions** or **situations**.

Rules & Examples:

1. like (Preposition)

1. She looks like her mother. (Compares She and her mother - two nouns/pronouns.)
2. This coffee tastes like mud. (Compares coffee and mud.)
3. Don't treat me like a child.
4. He runs like the wind.

2. as (Conjunction)

1. Do **as** I say, not **as** I do. (I say and I do are clauses.)
2. He acted **as** if he owned the place. (if he owned... is a clause.)
3. She is not as tall as her brother is. (The is **is** often omitted in informal speech, causing confusion, but it's implied: as her brother.)

The Classic Error:

- "Winston tastes good **like** a cigarette should."(X)
- "Winston tastes good **as** a cigarette should." (a cigarette should is a clause.)

Professor's Tip: Ask yourself: am I comparing two *nouns*, or am I comparing two *actions/clauses*? If it's nouns, use like. If it's actions, use as.

- He fights like a lion. (He vs. lion)
- He fights as a lion fights. (His fighting vs. a lion's fighting)

This is about using two words when one will do. It's a sign of sloppy thinking and a common target in error-spotting.

2. Suppose if ... / Supposing if ...

Problem: Both suppose and if introduce a hypothetical condition. Using both is redundant.

1. Suppose if you miss the train, what will you do?(X)

   Suppose you miss the train, what will you do?

   If you miss the train, what will you do?

3. Although ... but ...

Problem: Although already signals contrast. Adding but is like putting a hat on a hat.

1. Although she is rich, but she is unhappy.(X)

   Although she is rich, she is unhappy.

And that's a wrap. We've gone from the basic definition to the nitty-gritty of structural traps. This is a comprehensive, university-level breakdown. If you put this in your notebook and truly understand the *logic* behind each rule, you won't just pass your exams. You'll actually understand how English sentences are built.

No more weak grammar. Now go practice.