

CONJUNCTIONS

PS-3

Definition: A conjunction is a word that joins words or groups of words.

There are four kinds of conjunctions: *coordinating* conjunctions, *correlative* conjunctions, *subordinate* conjunctions, and *adverbial* conjunctions.

I. COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS: and, but, for, so, or, nor, yet

Coordinating conjunctions can join subjects, verbs, objects of prepositions, prepositional phrases, independent clauses, etc. When the conjunction is used to join independent clauses, the conjunction is preceded by a comma.

Example:

1. Jane and I were late for class.
(and joins the subjects of the sentence)
2. Father is going, but Mother will stay at home.
(but joins the two independent clauses)

EXERCISE 1-A: Underline the conjunction in the following sentences.

1. Paul and his teacher will be attending the meeting.
2. We sang but did not dance at the party.
3. The manager asked John to the conference, but John did not attend.
4. There will be one or two people in class today.
5. Jane left town, for she was offered a better salary in Miami.

EXERCISE 1-B: Determine the logical relationship between the clauses in the following sentences and write an appropriate coordinating conjunction in the blank.

1. We must hurry, _____ we'll miss the bus.
2. We went to class, _____ the teacher was not there.
3. John was injured during practice yesterday, _____ he will not play in the game today.
4. The house was cold when we awoke, _____ the oil burner had stopped during the night.
5. We heard the assignment, _____ we didn't understand it.
6. My throat began to hurt, _____ I decided to consult a doctor.
7. We played tennis in the afternoon, _____ we went to the Bull's game that night.
8. The police had raided the club, _____ someone had reported the sale of the illegal drugs.
9. Pearl wanted to get to school on time, _____ she had neglected to set the alarm.
10. Peter was watching television, _____ Mary was talking on the telephone.

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II. CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS:

either...or	not only...but (also)
neither...nor	whether...or
both...and	

Correlative conjunctions are always used in pairs.

Example: You may either stay or go with your sister.

EXERCISE 2: Underline the correlative conjunctions in the following sentences.

1. Either you study or you will not be successful in the class.
2. Not only the manager but also the employees will be at the meeting.
3. Neither the lawyers nor doctors will suffer from the new legislative bill.
4. Both an oral exam and a written exam are required for credit in the class.
5. Whether he transfers or remains, he will be successful.

III. SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS:

after	if	until
although	since	when
as	that	where
because	though	while
before	unless	who

Subordinating conjunctions are used to introduce dependent clauses. Examples:

1. After spending 24 hours studying, I managed to pass the test.
2. He joined the union because he wanted to believe in equal opportunity.

EXERCISE 3-A: Underline the subordinate conjunctions in the following sentences.

1. If Jane wants to go with us, she must be ready at five o'clock.
2. Because our team had not won a game all season, we did not expect to win the final game.
3. We managed to accomplish very little since our vacation was so short.
4. He waited until the bell rang.
5. You will pass the course if you pass the test.

EXERCISE 3-B: Write subordinate conjunctions in the blanks in the following sentences. Make sure the conjunction you choose fits logically with the meaning of the sentence.

1. _____ I had just read his latest book; it was exciting to meet the author.
2. We ought to wait _____ they have completed the test.
3. _____ Martha has traveled throughout the United States; she is an excellent history teacher.
4. We stood in line four hours _____ we could get good seats for the concert.
5. _____ Pam is older than George; they are in the same grade.
6. He will take the job _____ the pay is high enough.
7. We will eat lunch at Ivey's _____ you have a special preference.
8. _____ I got to know Alice; I really liked her very much.
9. _____ the train is going to be late, I shall attempt to send you a telegram.
10. A special session was called by the council _____ before legislation could be passed.

IV. ADVERBIAL CONJUNCTIONS:

Adverbial conjunctions are often known as **transitions**. In the following exercises, the adverbial conjunction will be used to join two independent clauses. **A semicolon is used before the conjunction and a comma after the conjunction.**

ADVERBIAL CONJUNCTIONS: however, therefore, furthermore, otherwise, moreover, similarly, finally, equally, conversely, although

Example: I had expected to spend a large amount of money for a formal dress; **however**, I found a beautiful gown on sale.

EXERCISE 4: In the following sentences write an appropriate transitional word, or adverbial conjunction, in each blank and punctuate properly.

1. Jane didn't want to fail the test _____ she studied many hours.
2. Cathy wanted to go to a movie _____ the rest of the family wanted to stay home and watch television.
3. Children must get their polio vaccines _____ they may have the crippling disease.
4. The quarterback refused to practice _____ the team lost the game.
5. She washed the sheets and towel _____ she scrubbed the bathroom floor.
6. Tim had not read his assignment _____ he did not want the teacher to call on him.

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ANSWER KEY:

Exercise 1-A:

1. and 2. but 3. but 4. or 5. for

Exercise 1-B:

1. or 2. but 3. so 4. for 5. but 6. so 7. and 8. for 9. but 10. and

Exercise 2

1. Either, or 2. not only, but also 3. Neither, nor 4. Both, and 5. Whether, or

Exercise 3-A:

1. If 2. Because 3. since 4. until 5. if

Exercise 3-B: Some answers optional.

1. Because 2. until 3. Because 4. before 5. Although (Though) 6. if 7. unless 8. After 9. If
10. where

Exercise 4:

1. ;therefore,
2. ;however,
3. ;otherwise,
4. ;therefore,
5. ;moreover,
6. ;therefore,