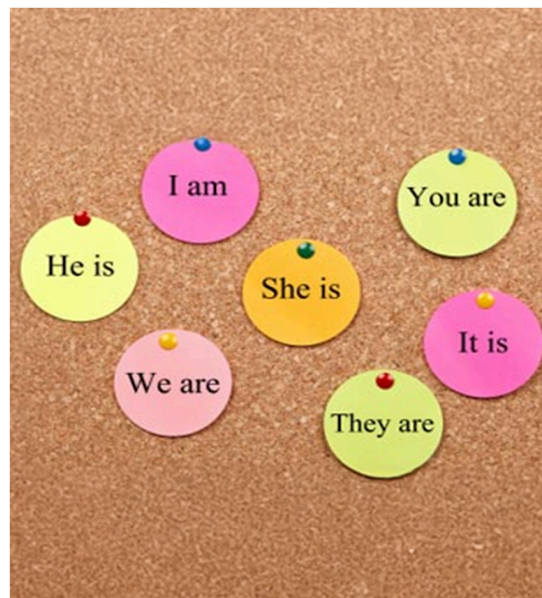


English Grammar

STUDY NOTES

Conjunction (I)



Conjunctions

What are Conjunctions?

These words combine two or more sentence components—words, phrases, clauses, or sentences—are known as **conjunctions**. They act as a link between various phrase components, enabling a coherent and seamless flow.

Example:

- He likes **both** apples **and** guavas.
- I studied hard **yet** I failed the exam.

In the above examples, conjunctions (**and** and **yet**) are used to connect two elements. Hence, ensuring the sentence conveys a complete meaning.

Types of Conjunctions

Conjunctions can be classified into three main types:

1. **Coordinating Conjunctions**
2. **Subordinating Conjunctions**
3. **Correlative Conjunctions**

Let's examine each of these categories, including their definitions, guidelines, examples, and questions.

1. Coordinating Conjunctions:

Coordinating conjunctions are used to join grammatically equivalent words, phrases, or clauses. If two independent clauses (clauses that can stand alone as full sentences) are joined, they form compound sentences. The most common coordinating conjunctions can be remembered with the acronym **FANBOYS**:

- **F**or → **F**
- **A**nd → **A**
- **N**or → **N**
- **B**ut → **B**
- **O**r → **O**
- **Y**et → **Y**
- **S**o → **S**

Rules for Coordinating Conjunctions

- ❖ **For:** These are used to show reason or cause.
 - *He stayed home, **for** he was feeling tired.*
- ❖ **And:** These are used to add information and also to connect two similar ideas.
 - *He went to the convenience store **and** bought some groceries.*
- ❖ **Nor:** Used to present a second negative idea. The word "nor" is used to indicate that two or more negative statements or thoughts are not true or occurring.
 - *Neither did she come to the anniversary party **nor** did she call to explain.*
- ❖ **But:** These are used to show a contrast or an opposition.
 - *She wanted to attend the party, **but** she was busy.*
- ❖ **Or:** These are used in cases where there are alternatives or choices.
 - *Do you want coffee, **or** would you prefer hot chocolate?*
- ❖ **Yet:** Used in cases where we are introducing an unexpected outcome.
 - *She worked hard, **yet** she didn't pass the final test.*
- ❖ **So:** Utilized to illustrate causation and effect.
 - *He was starving, **so** he made a burger.*

Important Points to Remember:

- Two independent clauses or two nouns are examples of items of equal value that are always connected by coordinating **conjunctions**.
- When combining two independent sentences, a comma is frequently positioned before the **conjunction**.

Examples from Previous Year's Papers

Question 1 : Complete the sentence:

- She wanted to go out, _____ it started to rain.
a) and
b) for
c) but
d) so

Answer: c) *but*

Explanation: The fact that it began to rain contrasts with her wish to go out, as shown by the use of the **conjunction** "but".

2. Subordinating Conjunctions:

Subordinating conjunctions show the relationship between an independent and dependent phrase by joining them. It requires an independent clause to complete its meaning; a dependent clause cannot function as a sentence on its own. Concession, time, cause, condition, and comparison are all introduced by **subordinating conjunctions**.

Some common subordinating conjunctions are:

- **Because, Since, Although, If, When, While, As, After, Before, Until, Unless, Even though, So that, Though**

Rules for Subordinating Conjunctions

- ❖ **Time:** These **conjunctions** indicate when something happens.
 - *I will let you know **when** I arrive.*
- ❖ **Reason:** These are used to show the cause or reason.
 - *Seema didn't attend the conference **because** she was ill.*
- ❖ **Condition:** These are used for expressing conditions or situations.
 - *You won't succeed **unless** you try hard.*
- ❖ **Concession:** These exhibit contrast or surprising outcomes.
 - ***Although** it was raining, we went out.*
- ❖ **Comparison:** These show how two elements are compared.
 - *She is taller **than** her elder brother.*
- ❖ **Purpose:** These display the aim or objective.
 - *Seema left early **so that** she could catch the train.*

Important Points to Remember:

- ❖ A comma comes after the dependent clause in sentences that start with a subordinating conjunction.
 - ***Although** it was raining heavily, we went for a run.*
- ❖ A comma is not required if the subordinating conjunction is positioned in the center of the sentence.
 - *We went for a run **although** it was raining heavily.*

Example from Previous Year's Papers

Question 2 :

Complete the sentence:

- *She went to bed early _____ she was tired.*
 - a) because
 - b) so
 - c) and
 - d) or

Answer: a) because

Explanation: The **conjunction** "because" indicates that she went to bed early because she was exhausted.

3. Correlative Conjunctions:

In pairs, **correlative conjunctions** are employed to join grammatically comparable parts. They complement one another to demonstrate how two sentence components relate to one another. **Correlative conjunction** pairs that are most frequently used are as follows:

- **Either... or**
- **Neither... nor**
- **Both... and**
- **Not only... but also**
- **Whether... or**
- **Such... that**

Rules for Correlative Conjunctions:

- ❖ **Either... or:** Used to display two options or alternatives.
 - She can **either** stay home **or** can come with us.
- ❖ **Neither... nor:** These are used to refute two ideas or choices.
 - He is **neither** intelligent **nor** hardworking.
- ❖ **Both... and:** Used to show that both of the elements are accurate.
 - She is **both** intelligent **and** beautiful.
- ❖ **Not only... but also:** Used to highlight the importance of both components.
 - She is **not only** talented **but also** hardworking.
- ❖ **Whether... or:** Used to offer two options or possibilities.
 - I don't know **whether** she is coming **or** not.

Important Points to Remember:

- ❖ **Correlational conjunctions** are required to join grammatically parallel parts. The second portion must likewise be a noun if the first part is.
 - **Correct:** He is **both** strong **and** tall.
 - **Incorrect:** He is **both** tall **and** has strength.

Examples from Previous Year's Papers

Question 3 :

Complete the sentence:

- *She is _____ intelligent _____ hardworking.*
 - a) either, or
 - b) both, and
 - c) neither, nor
 - d) not only, but also

Answer: *b) both, and*

Explanation: The use of the correlative conjunction "both... and" highlights the individual's dual qualities of intelligence and hard work.

4. Common Rules for Using Conjunctions

Rule 1: Parallelism with Coordinating Conjunctions

When joining two or more items with coordinating conjunctions, make sure the elements are grammatically parallel. This implies that the elements before and following the **conjunction** should have the same structure.

- **Incorrect:** Seema likes to read **and** writing.
- **Correct:** Seema likes to read **and** write.

Rule 2: Subordinate Clauses Must Have an Independent Clause

Unable to function as a sentence on its own, a dependent clause is introduced by a **subordinating conjunction**. A full sentence must therefore also have an independent clause.

- **Incorrect:** *Although* she was late.
- **Correct:** *Although* she was late, she was still allowed to enter the class.

Rule 3: Correlative Conjunctions Require Parallel Structure

When using **correlative conjunctions** like either... or and neither... nor, it's important to ensure that the elements they connect are grammatically similar.

- **Incorrect:** He is either going to the amusement park or will go to the movies.
- **Correct:** He is *either* going to the amusement park *or* going to the movies.

Rule 4: Avoid Double Negatives with “Neither” and “Nor”

To prevent double negatives when using neither and nor, make sure the sentence has no additional negative terms.

- **Incorrect:** She *neither didn't* come nor called.
- **Correct:** She *neither* came *nor* called.

5. Common Errors and How to Avoid Them

Error 1: Misuse of Subordinating Conjunctions

Using a **subordinating conjunction** without an independent clause is a common error made by applicants, which leads to sentence fragments.

- **Incorrect:** *Because* it was raining cats and dogs.

- **Correct:** We stayed home *because* it was raining cats and dogs.

Error 2: Incorrect Placement of Correlative Conjunctions

Make sure to maintain parallelism and correctly use both components of the pair when utilizing correlative conjunctions.

- **Incorrect:** She is *not only* intelligent *but also* works hard.
- **Correct:** She is *not only* smart *but also* hardworking.

Error 3: Overuse of Coordinating Conjunctions

Refrain from making unnecessary or improper use of *coordinating conjunctions*. Logically linked items should be connected by each coordinating conjunction.

- **Incorrect:** She is tall and *because* she is an athlete.
- **Correct:** She is tall *because* she is an athlete