

Seven Things to Know about Conjunctions

- 1- Conjunctions are words used to connect other words.
- 2- Conjunctions are used to connect single words.
Example: Sallie **and** Maddie are best friends.
- 3- Conjunctions are used to connect phrases.
Example: They like to have sleepovers **and** go bike riding around the neighborhood.
- 4- Conjunctions are used to connect clauses.*
Example: Sallie lives with her parents, **but** Maddie lives with her aunt. (Note that a comma comes before the conjunction.)
- 5- Conjunctions used to connect words, phrases, and independent clauses are called coordinating conjunctions. (Note that the words, phrases, or clauses connected must be equal or of the same type.)
Example: Sallie was sad because her dog died, **so** Maddie brought her a gift.
- 6- Conjunctions used to introduce subordinate, or dependent, clauses are called subordinating conjunctions.
Example: **Although** Sallie and Maddie go to different schools, they're still best friends.
- 7- Pairs of conjunctions used to connect words or phrases that are used in the same way are called correlating conjunctions.
Example: **Neither** Sallie **nor** Maddie likes cooked vegetables.

*A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. An independent clause expresses a complete thought and stands alone as a sentence. (Example: I'm cold.) A dependent clause does not. (Example: Because I'm cold.) A dependent clause needs an independent clause to complete its meaning. (Example: I'm wearing a sweater because I'm cold.)

List of Common Conjunctions

Coordinating Conjunctions (only seven): for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (FANBOYS)

Subordinating Conjunctions: after, although, as, as if, as long as, as much as, as soon as, as though, because, before, even, even if, even though, if, if only, if when, if then, inasmuch, in order that, just as, lest, now, now since, now that, now when, once, provided, provided that, rather than, since, so that, supposing, than, that, though, till, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, where if, wherever, whether, which, while, who, whoever, why, etc.

Correlative Conjunctions: both / and, either / or, neither / nor, whether / or, as / so, rather / than, not only / but also, etc.