Conjunctions

Conjunctions join words, phrases, or clauses and are typically separated into three classifications: **coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions, and subordinating conjunctions.**

- **Coordinating Conjunctions:** and, but, or, yet, for, nor, and so.

  Coordinating conjunctions join elements serving the same grammatical function within a sentence. These elements can be single words, phrases, or entire clauses.

  In the morning, I drink coffee or tea. [The coordinating conjunction or joins coffee and tea, both functioning as direct objects within the sentence.]

  I drink coffee in the morning and in the afternoon. [The conjunction and joins in the morning and in the afternoon, both prepositional phrases modifying drink.]

  I drink coffee in the morning, but I take tea in the afternoon. [The conjunction but joins two clauses to create a compound sentence.]

- **Correlative Conjunctions:** both ... and; not only ... but also; either ... or; and neither ... nor.

  Correlative conjunctions also join elements serving the same grammatical function within a sentence and are always used in pairs.

  I take neither sugar nor cream in my coffee. [The correlative conjunctions neither and nor join sugar and cream, both direct objects.]

  Coffee is not only stimulating in the morning but also very pleasant in the afternoon. [The conjunctions not only and but also join the phrases stimulating in the morning and very pleasant in the afternoon.]
- Subordinating Conjunctions: after, although, because, before, if, since, so that, though, unless, until, when, where, and while, to name a few.

Subordinating conjunctions are used to introduce dependent clauses. A dependent clause is a group of words which function as a noun, adjective, or adverb within the sentence.

I drink coffee before I go to work. [The subordinating conjunction before joins the clauses I drink coffee and I go to work. Notice that it also establishes a particular relationship between the clauses.]

Unless I have coffee in the morning, it is very difficult to wake up. [The conjunction unless joins the clauses I have coffee in the morning and it is very difficult to wake up.]