

# Conjunctions in English

We use words called conjunctions, like and, or, but, because and although, to join two parts of sentences. Conjunctions can be used to give more information, give alternatives, give reasons, give results or give unexpected information.

This lecture provides a brief overview of the different types of conjunctions and their function in sentences.

## 1. Coordinating Conjunctions

- but
- so
- or
- and

Coordinating conjunctions join words, phrases, or independent clauses of a sentence together. They often link similar grammatical parts of a sentence together (parts of speech + parts of speech / phrase + phrase / clause + clause). We use and, or and but to connect two parts of sentences which are similar in grammatical status. Since we use *and* for adding information, *or* for giving alternatives and *but* for unexpected or different information.

### **Here are some example sentences:**

1. We went to the park, but we did not have time for the museum.
2. Let's meet at the beach or in front of the hotel.
3. On Friday night we watched TV and a movie.
4. Do you want chocolate, strawberry or vanilla?

### **Can we use these words at the beginning of a sentence?**

We don't usually use conjunctions to start sentences when we're writing, but people do when they're speaking. In a sentence, coordinating conjunctions come in between the individual words, phrases, and independent clauses they are joining.

## 2. Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions join an independent clause (which contains both a subject and a verb and can act as a complete sentence) and a dependent clause (which also contains a subject and a verb but is not a complete sentence). For example, *because*, for giving reasons, *so*, for talking about results or purposes, and *although*, for unexpected or different information.

- after / before
- although / even though because / as
- if
- as long as / provided that till / until
- unless
- when / once / as soon as while / whereas
- in spite of / despite

### Here are some example sentences:

1. They went running, although / even though it was very hot.
2. We went to the beach despite / in spite of the rainy weather.
3. We decided to go to the cinema because / as it was too cold to go to the beach.
4. Monica lives in New York, while / whereas her brother lives in California.
5. He went to work after he (had) finished his breakfast.
6. He finished breakfast before he went to work.
7. I will go there if / provided that / as long as you go too.
8. I won't go there unless you go too
9. We can leave when / once you are ready.
10. You can't drive until / till you get your licence.

Subordinating conjunctions always come at the beginning of a dependent clause. However, dependent clauses can sometimes come before an independent clause (separated by a comma). So, we could write the above sentences this way:

1. Although / Even though it was very hot, they went running.
2. Despite / In spite of the rainy weather, we went to the beach.

3. Because / as it was too cold to go to the beach, we decided to go to the cinema.
4. While / Whereas her brother lives in California, Monica lives in New York.
5. After he (had) finished his breakfast, he went to work.
6. Before he went to work, he finished his breakfast.
7. If / Provided that / As long as you go too, I will go there.
8. Unless you go too, I won't go there.
9. When / Once you are ready, we can leave.
10. Until / Till you get your licence, you can't drive.

*Coordinating conjunctions join parts of sentence that are similar whereas subordinating conjunctions often shows a contrasting or unequal relationship.*

### 3. Linking words across sentences

*Linking words across sentences always link a second sentence to an idea in the previous sentence. That means they come at the beginning of the second sentence.*

- In addition, / Furthermore,
- However, / On the other hand,
- Therefore, / Consequently,
- First(ly), / Second(ly), / Third(ly), / Finally,

**Linking words across sentences are used either for contrast with the previous sentence or for continuing the same idea. Here are some examples:**

Swansea is a nice place to live for many reasons including the fantastic summer weather, the beaches and parks. In addition, / Furthermore, there are a lot of clubs, restaurants and cafes to enjoy. However, / On the other hand, there is not much to do in winter when it is cold and rainy and not much fun to do outdoor activities. Therefore, / Consequently, if you are planning to visit Swansea, it is best to come between July and August which is the hottest time.

Before you travel you need to think about a number of things. Firstly, make sure your passport is up to date. Secondly, get some travel insurance in case something goes wrong on your trip. Thirdly, make sure you pack a hat, a pair of

sunglasses and some strong sunscreen for the beach. Finally, change some money into pounds before you leave your country.

### HOMEWORK

1. We ate a pizza ..... a kebab.

(BUT / AND / SO)

2. We had some cake ..... we didn't have any coffee.

(UNLESS / UNTIL / BUT)

3. I had a headache ..... I didn't go to the party.

(WHEN / SO / WHEREAS)

4. You can have a coffee ..... a tea but not both.

(OR / TILL / BUT)

5. I can't come to school ..... I have an important appointment.

(SO / BECAUSE / UNLESS)

6. I will call you ..... I get home.

(AS / AND / WHEN)

7. .... you do your homework, you will pass the course.

(UNLESS / UNTIL / AS LONG AS)

8. I wanted to eat Japanese food ..... my wife wanted to eat Chinese food. (SO / WHEN / WHEREAS)

9. She still went to work ..... she was sick.

(EVEN THOUGH / UNTIL / IF)

10. Don't call me ..... you have finished your work.

(UNTIL / WHILE / AS LONG AS)

11. .... the bad weather, they decided to have a picnic.

(BECAUSE / DESPITE / WHEREAS)

12. Wash your hands ..... you eat your dinner.

(TILL / WHEN / BEFORE)

13. I did not have the correct visa. .... I could not enter the country. (BECAUSE / AS / CONSEQUENTLY)

**14.** I like milk, butter, cream and yoghurt. ...., I don't like cheese. (SO / HOWEVER / AND)

**15.** He did not pass the exam because he had not studied or done his homework ....., he did not go to school on the exam day.

(OR / UNTIL / IN ADDITION)

**16.** ..... john was fixing the car, his wife was making sandwiches.

(WHILE / UNTIL / DESPITE)

**17.** He could not get the job ..... his excellent qualifications.

(BECAUSE / WHILE / IN SPITE OF)

**18.** I had a shower ..... I got home.

(BUT / AS SOON AS / UNTIL)

**19.** ..... you don't work hard you won't get a promotion.

(IF / SO / AS LONG AS)

**20.** You won't get a promotion ..... you work hard.

(WHILE / UNLESS / BECAUSE)

**21.** ..... we had no money, we still had a good time.

**(FINALLY, / HOWEVER / ALTHOUGH)**