

A conjunction is a part of speech that is used to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.

### Conjunctions List

There are only a few common conjunctions, yet these words perform many functions: They present explanations, ideas, exceptions, consequences, and contrasts. Here is a list of conjunctions commonly used in American English:

And, as, because, but, for, just as, or, neither, nor, not only, so, whether, yet

### Examples of Conjunctions

In the following examples, the conjunctions are in bold for easy recognition:

- I tried to hit the nail **but** hit my thumb instead.
- I have two goldfish **and** a cat.
- I'd like a bike **for** commuting to work.
- You can have peach ice cream **or** a brownie sundae.
- Neither the black dress **nor** the gray one looks right on me.
- My dad always worked hard **so** we could afford the things we wanted.
- I try very hard in school **yet** I am not receiving good grade.
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Conjunction	What is linked	Example
and	noun phrase + noun phrase	We have tickets for the symphony <b>and</b> the opera.
but	sentence + sentence	The orchestra rehearses on Tuesday, <b>but</b> the chorus rehearses on Wednesday.
or	verb + verb	Have you seen <b>or</b> heard the opera by Scott Joplin?
so	sentence + sentence	I wanted to sit in front row, <b>so</b> I ordered my tickets early.

both...and	subject + subject	<b>Both</b> my sister <b>and</b> my brother play the piano.
either...or	noun + noun	Tonight's program is <b>either</b> Mozart <b>or</b> Beethoven.
neither...nor	subject + subject	<b>Neither</b> the orchestra <b>nor</b> the chorus was able to overcome the terrible acoustics in the church.
not only...but also	sentence + sentence	<b>Not only</b> does Sue raise money for the symphony, <b>but</b> she <b>also</b> ushers at all of their concerts.

because, as, since	As and since can begin a sentence.	<b>As/since</b> it was late, we decided to go home.  Peter has given up sailing, for he doesn't have the time.
because of, on account of, due to and owing to	We can use all these words in place of because of.	Everyone was depressed on account <b>of/due to/owing to</b> the bad weather. Note this

### Ex.1 Test

- My brother loves animals. He just brought a puppy \_\_\_\_\_ a kitten home with him.
  - But
  - Or
  - Yet
  - And**
- I'd like to thank you \_\_\_\_\_ the lovely gift.
  - Or
  - For**
  - And
  - Yet
- I want to go for a hike \_\_\_\_\_ I have to go to work today.
  - But**
  - Yet
  - Or
  - For
- They do not smoke, \_\_\_\_\_ do they play cards.
  - And

2. Or
3. Nor
4. Yet
5. I'm getting good grades \_\_\_\_\_ I study every day.
  1. Or
  2. Yet
  3. But
  4. Because

Ex.2 Fill the gaps with a correct conjunction.

whether, though, unless, as, so that, where, whenever, if.

1. I visit the Grand Canyon \_\_\_\_\_ **whenever** \_\_\_\_\_ I go to Arizona.
2. This is the place \_\_\_\_\_ **where** \_\_\_\_\_ we stayed last time we visited.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **If** \_\_\_\_\_ you win first place, you will receive a prize.
4. You won't pass the test \_\_\_\_\_ **unless** \_\_\_\_\_ you study.
5. I could not get a seat, \_\_\_\_\_ **though** \_\_\_\_\_ I came early.
6. We are leaving Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ **whether** \_\_\_\_\_ or not it rains.
7. Pay attention to your work \_\_\_\_\_ **so that** \_\_\_\_\_ you will not make mistakes.
8. The musicians delivered a rousing performance \_\_\_\_\_ **as** \_\_\_\_\_ they had rehearsed often.
9. She's honest \_\_\_\_\_ **so** \_\_\_\_\_ everyone trusts her. (if, so, when)

Ex. 3 Complete each sentence using the correct **conjunction** pair from the parenthesis:

1. I plan to take my vacation \_\_\_\_\_ in June \_\_\_\_\_ in July. (whether, nor / **either, or** / or, as / if, so)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm feeling happy \_\_\_\_\_ sad, I try to keep a positive attitude. (either, if / **whether, or** / or, when)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ had I taken my shoes off \_\_\_\_\_ I found out we had to leave again. (**no sooner, so** / than, rather / than, whether)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ only is dark chocolate delicious, \_\_\_\_\_ it can be healthy. (whether, not / or, not / **not, but**)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I have salad for dinner, \_\_\_\_\_ I can have ice cream for dessert. (**if, then** / when, than / whether, or)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ flowers \_\_\_\_\_ trees grow \_\_\_\_\_ during warm weather. (not only, or / **both, and** / not, but)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ do we enjoy summer vacation, \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ enjoy winter break. (whether, or / **not only, but also** / either, nor )

8. Calculus is \_\_\_\_\_ easy \_\_\_\_\_ difficult \_\_\_\_\_ (not, but / both, and / either, or)
9. It's \_\_\_\_\_ going to rain \_\_\_\_\_ snow tonight. (as, if / either, or / as, as)
10. Savory flavors are \_\_\_\_\_ sweet \_\_\_\_\_ sour. (often, and / neither, nor / both, and)

Ex. 4 Complete each sentence using the correct **conjunction** from the parenthesis:

1. My car has a radio \_\_\_\_\_ a CD player. (but, or, and)
2. Sharon hates to listen to rap music, \_\_\_\_\_ will she tolerate heavy metal. (but, nor, or)
3. Carol wanted to drive to Colorado, \_\_\_\_\_ Bill insisted that they fly. (and, or, but)
4. I'm afraid of heights, \_\_\_\_\_ I appreciate the view from the top of this building. (and, yet, nor)
5. I have to be on time, \_\_\_\_\_ my boss will be annoyed if I'm late. (and, nor, for)
6. Do you like chocolate \_\_\_\_\_ vanilla ice cream better? (or, nor, and)
7. I have to go to work at six, \_\_\_\_\_ I'm waking up at four. (but, so, yet)
8. I was on time, \_\_\_\_\_ everyone else was late. (so, but, for)
9. Nadia doesn't like to drive, \_\_\_\_\_ she takes the bus everywhere. (but, yet, so)
10. Our trip to the museum was interesting, \_\_\_\_\_ there were several new artifacts on display. (but, for, yet)

Ex 5. Complete each sentence using the correct linking word from the parenthesis:

1. Bianca wore her rain boots; \_\_\_\_\_, her feet stayed dry during the storm. (however, therefore, on the other hand)
2. I love the color red; \_\_\_\_\_, this shade seems a little too bright. (therefore, nonetheless, in fact)
3. You have to be on time; \_\_\_\_\_, you'll miss the train. (nonetheless, however, otherwise)
4. Teresa likes to read; \_\_\_\_\_, her sister Julia prefers to watch TV. (however, in contrast, again)
5. She really wanted to eat ice cream; \_\_\_\_\_, she had a salad. (however, likewise, instead)
6. We were working hard; \_\_\_\_\_, Jill and Jerry were lounging by the pool. (meanwhile, instead, therefore)
7. He is a weak leader; \_\_\_\_\_, he has plenty of supporters. (otherwise, moreover, nevertheless)
8. She has an incredible voice; \_\_\_\_\_, she will go far in her music career. (otherwise, undoubtedly, similarly)
9. Natalie wanted to make pie but didn't have apples; \_\_\_\_\_, she decided to bake a cake. (therefore, namely, in contrast)
10. We had hoped to go to Spain; \_\_\_\_\_, we ended up in France. (otherwise, instead, again)

**Ex. 6 Choose the correct sentence.**

**1.**

- a) Think again. But is connecting two independent clauses.
- b) Think again. But is connecting two independent clauses.
- c) Well done. But is used in the sense of 'with the exception of'.

**2.**

- a) Because is a subordinating conjunction, no comma needed.
- b) Because is a subordinating conjunction, no comma needed.
- c) As the subordinate clause comes first in the sentence, it must be offset with a comma.

**3.**

- a) As is a subordinating conjunction and does not need a comma.
- b) As is a subordinating conjunction and does not need a comma.
- c) The introductory clause needs to be offset with a comma.

**4.**

- a) 'Or' is a coordinating conjunction and is preceded by a comma.
- b) No need for a comma if 'or' is separating two elements in a list.
- c) 'Or' is a coordinating conjunction and is preceded by a comma.

**5.**

- a) Here 'and' is joining two independent clauses and needs a comma.
- b) 'And' is separating two items in the same clause and does not need a comma.
- c) Here 'and' is joining two independent clauses and needs a comma.

**6.**

- a) The initial clause needs to be set off with a comma.
- b) 'Although' is a subordinating conjunction and does not need a comma.
- c) 'Although' is a subordinating conjunction and does not need a comma.