

Cohesion – Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words which link two clauses in one sentence. Below is a list of conjunctions, grouped according to the function they perform in a sentence. Look through them, looking up and noting any that are new to you.

<p>Time after after which and as as long as as soon as at which (point) before by the time hardly* no sooner* now (that) once since the moment then till until when whenever whereupon while</p>	<p>Result and and so else or else otherwise so so that</p> <p>Contrast, Concession, Alternatives although apart from but despite even if even though except that in spite of or much as nor</p>	<p>not that though whereas while whilst yet</p> <p>Reason as as a result of because because of considering due to for given that in case in view of the fact that just in case on account of seeing as/that since</p>	<p>Purpose in case in order that in order to so so as to so that to</p> <p>Conditional as long as even if if one condition that provided (that) providing (that) so long as unless whether... or</p> <p>Manner as as if</p>	<p>as though in a way in the way just as like much as the way</p> <p>Addition and as well as besides besides which in addition to not only*</p> <p>Giving examples for instance for example in particular</p>
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***Inversion** – verb and subject are **inverted** after these words. For example:-

We had hardly taken our coats off when it was time to go.
Hardly **had we** taken our coats off when it was time to go.

She is not only intelligent; she is also beautiful.
Not only **is she** intelligent, but also beautiful.

Source: Hugh Cory, *Advanced Writing with English in Use* (Oxford: OUP, 1999)

Coordinating and Subordinating Conjunctions

Some conjunctions are used simply to join or **coordinate** clauses, for example, *and, but, or, so*. Look at the following example sentences:-

We are going to the cinema **and** spending an evening at the opera.
The lending library closes at 7pm, **but** the reading rooms stay open until 9pm.

Other conjunctions, however, are used to **subordinate** one clause (the **subclause = Nebensatz**) to the other (the **main clause, or Hauptsatz**). The following pairs of sentences illustrate the different between coordinating and subordinating conjunctions:-

We are going to the cinema **and** spending an evening at the opera.
After going to the cinema, we are spending an evening at the opera.
The lending library closes at 7pm, **but** the reading rooms stay open until 9pm.
Whereas the lending library closes at 7pm, the reading rooms stay open until 9pm.

Coordinating conjunction
Subordinating conjunction
Coordinating conjunction
Subordinating conjunction

The following are common **subordinating conjunctions**:-

Time: *after, before, when, while, since, until,*
Contrast, Concession, Alternatives: *although, though, even if, despite, in spite of, whereas, while*
Reason: *because, due to, in view of the fact that, since*

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Purpose: *in case, in order that*

Conditional: *as long as, (even) if, provided (that), unless*

Common Mistakes

- ▶ Note that a **subordinating conjunction** introduces a **subordinate clause**, which must be followed by a **main clause**. The following is therefore not a complete sentence:-

Although there are many reasons why young people start to smoke.

A correct way of formulating this sentence would be:-

However, there are many reasons why young people start to smoke.

Similarly, the following sentence is grammatically incorrect:-

Whereas some argue that children should be forced to do more exercise.

Again, this needs to be phrased differently, for example:-

However / On the other hand / By contrast, some argue that children should be forced to do more exercise.

- ▶ Make a note of the **two different** conjunctions *despite* and *in spite of* – **despite of does not exist!**
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