Conjunction Junction

WHAT’S THEIR FUNCTION?
What are conjunctions, anyway?

A conjunction is a word used to connect clauses or sentences or to coordinate words in the same clause.
What kinds of conjunctions are there?

- Coordinating conjunctions (=)
  - FANBOYS

- Correlating Conjunctions
  - Both…and, either…or, neither…nor, whether…or, not only…but also

- Subordinating Conjunctions (< )
  - After, although, as, because, before, how, if, since, than, that, though, unless, until, what (whatever), when (whenever), where (wherever), whereas, whether, which (whichever), while, who (whom, whomever), whose

- Conjunctive Adverb (→)
  - Accordingly, however, nonetheless, also, indeed, otherwise, besides, instead, similarly, consequently, likewise, still, conversely, meanwhile, subsequently, finally, moreover, then, furthermore, nevertheless, therefore, hence, next, thus
Coordinating Conjunctions

- Coordinating Conjunctions are used to connect two complete sentences (independent clauses) and coordinating words and phrases.
- All coordinating conjunctions MUST be preceded by a comma if connecting two independent clauses.
Coordinating Conjunctions at Work

• Miss Smidgin was courteous but cool. (coordinating adjectives)
• The next five minutes will determine whether we win or lose. (coordinating verbs)
• This chimp is crazy about peanuts but also about strawberries. (coordinating prepositional phrases)
• He once lived in mansions, yet now he is living in an empty box. (coordinating independent clauses)
• You probably won’t have any trouble spotting him, for he weighs almost three hundred pounds.
• She didn’t offer help, nor did she offer any excuse for her laziness.
• I wanted to live closer to Nature, so I built myself a cabin in the swamps of Louisiana.
Correlating Conjunctions

Correlating Conjunctions connect two equal phrases.

neither = nor
either = or
both = and
whether = or
not only = but also
Correlating Conjunctions at Work

• In the fall, Phillip will **either** start classes at the community college **or** join the navy.

• **Neither** the potted ivy on the counter **nor** the dirty dishes in the sink have enjoyed water recently.

• Professor Wilson **not only** requires a 3,000-word research paper **but also** assigns a 500-word reaction paper each week.

• **Not only** did Michael grill a steak for Tiffany, **but** he **also** prepared a hotdog for Rocket, her dog.
  • Michael grilled meat not only for Tiffany but also for Rocket, her dog.
  • Michael grilled meat for not only Tiffany but also Rocket, her dog.
Using Correlating Conjunctions

• If you connect two subjects with a correlating conjunction, the second one must agree with the **verb** that follows:
  • Every single evening either the horned owl **or** the squabbling **cats** wake Samantha with their racket.
  • Every single evening either the squabbling **cats** **or** the horned **owl** wakes Samantha with their racket.

• Same thing with pronouns:
  • Neither Yolanda nor the **cousins** expressed **their** disappointment.
  • Neither the cousins nor **Yolanda** expressed **her** disappointment.
Subordinating Conjunctions

• These conjunctions can prevent monotony from repetitive structure:

  • I studied hard for the next exam, **and** I got Bill to help me, **but** I still did poorly, **but** I did much better than on the previous exam. The teacher was obviously displeased with me, **but** his frowns did not shatter my self-confidence.

  • With some help from Bill, I studied hard for the next exam, and even though I still did poorly, I did much better than on the previous exam. The teacher’s displeased frowns could not shatter my self-confidence.

  • These conjunctions say that the clause following them are unequal to the rest of the sentence.
The Devices of Subordination

• A clause is a group of words containing a subject and verb.
• An independent clause is a complete sentence and can stand alone.
• A dependent clause is not a complete sentence and cannot stand alone; it must be connected to an independent clause.

• Little Emily grabbed the dollar bill.
• As little Emily grabbed the dollar bill...
Placement of the Dependent Clause

• A dependent clause always has a subordinating conjunction at the beginning, no matter where it lies in the sentence.

• It can come before, after, or in the middle of the independent clause it connects to.
  • Before: *As soon as we chose Ruth Jackson to be our family doctor*, she told us about the sordid aspects of the medical profession.
  • After: Ruth Jackson told us about the sordid aspects of the medical profession *as soon as we chose her to be our family doctor*.
  • In the middle: Ruth Jackson, *whom we chose to be our family doctor*, told us about...
Conjunctive Adverbs introduce independent clauses and transition from the previous sentence or clause.
Conjunctive Adverbs at Work

• The conjunctive adverb can go at the beginning, middle, or end of a clause.

• Beginning: the conjunctive adverb must be preceded by a semicolon and followed by a comma.
  • The dark skies and distant thunder dissuaded Clarice from her afternoon run; moreover, she had thirty calculus problems to solve for her morning class.
  • The cat ate a bowlful of tuna; then, the fat feline fell asleep in the rocking chair.

• Middle: the conjunctive adverb must be preceded and followed by commas.
  • Maria declined Jeff’s invitation to go out. This young man is determined, nevertheless, to take her to dinner soon.

• End: the conjunctive adverb must be preceded by a comma.
  • After mowing the yard in the hot sun, Pedro was too hungry to shower. He did wash his dusty hands, however.
Works Cited
