

A Guide to Conjunctions

Conjunctions are joining words—think of them as the glue that holds sentences together. Conjunctions can connect clauses (parts) of a sentence together or they can connect words within the same clause. There are many different types of conjunctions that behave differently in sentences.

Coordinating Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions join two independent clauses (i.e., clauses that could stand alone as sentences). When using one of these, make sure to precede it with a comma. A common acronym to remember coordinating conjunctions is FANBOYS.

Coordinating Conjunctions Are:

for	or
and	yet
nor	so
but	

Example Sentences

I went to the store, and I bought a gallon of milk.

She had red hair, but she didn't inherit her hair color from her mother.

Subordinating Conjunctions

You use subordinating conjunctions when beginning a sentence with a subordinate (or dependent) clause. Subordinating clauses both highlight the importance of the dependent clause and form a bridge between the two clauses. If your subordinating conjunction comes at the beginning of the sentence, make sure to add a comma between clauses.

Some Subordinating Conjunctions Are:

after	before	though
although	how	till
as	if	unless
as	in order that	until
if	provided (that)	when
as long as	since	wherever
as soon as	so (that)	where
as though	than	wherever
because	that	while (etc.)

Example Sentences

Although I remembered to buy milk, I forgot to buy eggs.
While her father’s hair is brown, her grandfather’s hair is red.
I tend to sneeze whenever I walk into bright sunlight.

Conjunctive Adverbs (also called sentence adverbs)

Conjunctive adverbs are a special type of adverb that joins two independent clauses together. To use conjunctive adverbs, you would follow the first independent clause with a semicolon, followed by your conjunctive adverb, then a comma, then the second independent clause.

Some Conjunctive Adverbs Are:

also	moreover
besides	nevertheless
consequently	nonetheless
furthermore	similarly
however	then
indeed	therefore
likewise	thus

Example Sentences:

I remembered to buy milk; however, I forgot to buy eggs.
Her grandfather has red hair; therefore, she inherited her hair color from him.

Conclusion

You can use different conjunctions to create specific rhythms, emphasize ideas, and connect ideas in your sentences. Just keep in mind the above rules for each type of conjunction so they can help your essay flow!

References Consulted

1. “Subordinating Conjunctions - Examples & Exercises.” *Ginger Software*, Ginger Software, <https://www.gingersoftware.com/content/grammar-rules/conjunctions/subordinating-conjunctions/>.