

conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that link short sentences to make a longer one. Without them, writing would be dull and sound jerky. Compare these examples.

Jane dashed down the road. She didn't look ahead. She bumped into the old man. She knocked him to the ground.

Jane dashed down the road **but** didn't look ahead. She bumped into the old man **and** knocked him to the ground.

There are different kinds of conjunctions.

Coordinating conjunctions

A coordinating conjunction joins two sentences of equal importance. The most common ones are **and**, **but**, **or**, and **so**.

Annie threw the ball **and** Billy caught it.

We went to the theatre, **but** the play was sold out.

I could draw a picture of the bridge **or** (I could) make a model of it.

Coordinating conjunctions can also join words or phrases.

Jack **and** Jill ate fish **and** chips.

The horse was small **but** sturdy.

Are they friends **or** the worst of enemies?

Subordinating conjunctions

Certain conjunctions join two sentences so that one becomes a main statement (*main clause*) and the one after the conjunction becomes a less important statement (*subordinate clause*). These are called subordinating conjunctions.

Bernard played outside **because** it was too hot to stay indoors.

Although it was snowing, Bernard played outside.

Bernard will not go outside **until** the rain stops.