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Quick and Handy Grammar Review: Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that join parts of the sentence. They may join two similar parts of speech, such as two adjectives, two verbs, or two nouns. Conjunctions may also connect two clauses. *Coordinating conjunctions* unite two independent clauses and *subordinating conjunctions* join one dependent clause and one independent clause.

Coordinating Conjunctions:

and	but	or
yet	for	nor
so		

To recall the seven coordinating conjunctions, remember the word FANBOYS [**F**or **A**nd **N**or **B**ut **O**r **Y**et **S**o].

Notes:
- Do not begin a sentence with the coordinating conjunctions *and, but, so*, or *yet*.
- *For* is poetic. It means *because*. *For* is rarely used as a conjunction in modern English.
- *Nor*, used by itself, usually begins a sentence. It is usually followed by *do* or *does* and then the subject. [e.g., *I don't like opera. Nor do I like chamber music.*]
- As a conjunction, *yet* means *but.* It is used more often in writing than in speaking.
- Use a comma before the conjunction when 2 independent clauses are joined. You don't need to use a comma if those clauses are short or if they have the same subject.

Subordinating Conjunctions:

These words are often called *subordinators*. They are used at the beginning of a dependent clause in a complex sentence. Note that the order of the clauses doesn't matter, but there is a comma when the dependent clause is first in the sentence (Subordinating conjunction S V , S V) and no comma when the independent clause is first (S V Subordinating conjunction S V).

after	if	though
although	if only	till
as	in order that	unless
as if	now that	until
as long as	once	when
as though	rather than	whenever
because	since	where
before	so that	whereas
even if	than	wherever
even though	that	while

Correlative Conjunctions:

Some conjunctions are used in pairs. They use parallel structure, which means that the same grammatical forms appear on each side of the conjunction.

both ... and	neither ... nor	not only ... but also
either ... or	not ... but	whether ... or
as ... as		

Examples of correlative conjunctions:

- **Whether** you *earn* an A **or** *get* a lower grade, do your best. [Each conjunction is followed by a verb]

- **Both** *John* **and** *Bill* are excellent tennis players. [Each conjunction is followed by a noun]

- **Neither** the *professor* **nor** the *students* understood the problem. [Each conjunction is followed by a noun]

- I **not only** *lost* the game **but also** *hurt* my ankle. [Each conjunction is followed by a verb]

- Professor Jenkins is **not only** *patient*, **but also** *stimulating*. [Each conjunction is followed by an adjective]

- Hector did **not** *lose* money at the casino **but** he *did not win* any either. [Each conjunction is followed by a verb]

- Barbara is **as** tall **as** Mary. [Two nouns are compared]

| **and** | **but** | **so** |

Exercise 1:
Fill in the correct coordinating conjunction in the blank.

1. The rain is very heavy, _____ the game will probably not be played.

2. John works in a restaurant on weekends _____ during the week.

3. Sherry has a great job, _____ she is a very unhappy person.

4. The sun is shining brightly, _____ the picnic was still cancelled.

5. Rita is an excellent violinist,_____ she will probably be chosen for the orchestra.

6. The security lines are very long at the airport, _____ you should probably leave early for your flight.

7. I will not go to the game, _____ I will watch it on TV.

8. Mary has six brothers _____ eleven cousins.

9. I do not like pasta, _____ I do like pizza.

10. Max loves San Francisco, _____ he is thinking of moving there.

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| yet | for | nor | or |

Exercise 2:

Fill in the correct coordinating conjunction in the blank.

1. Marsha doesn't play jazz _____ the blues. She prefers hip-hop and rap.

2. John doesn't like chicken. _____ does he like pork or burgers.

3. Sheila works hard, _____ she doesn't make a lot of money.

4. The sun is very strong, _____ Jacob still won't wear any sunscreen.

5. I love you more than anything in the world, _____ you are sweet and kind.

6. Would you like coffee _____ tea? I would prefer a cup of coffee.

7. Henry does not come from Mexico. _____ is from Belize. He is from Honduras.

8. I will go to Montreal _____ Quebec for the weekend. I'm not sure.

9. James is very tired, _____ he will still come with us to the movies.

10. Wanda is very happy, _____ she has finally earned her degree.

in order that	as long as	whenever	
because	where	than	that
while	before	unless	

Exercise 3:

Fill in the blank using one of the subordinating conjunctions from the list. Use each word only once.

1. I will never go to that restaurant again _____ I live.

2. _____ Jose needs help, he calls his two brothers.

3. _____ Sheldon works for the post office, he never works Sundays.

4. I would rather read a book _____ watch a stupid television program.

5. _____ Roger goes to Miami, he will buy a new bathing suit.

6. _____ travelers have time to pass through security, it is recommended that they arrive two hours before their flight.

7. I will not go out with you _____ you promise not to smoke

8. _____ Maria is an avid jogger, her sister Julia prefers just to sit on the couch.

9. I do not believe _____ Hector's father is a doctor.

10. Maryam loves the city _____ she now lives.

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as if	if only	though	till
so that	since	whereas	as
wherever	now that		

Exercise 4:

Fill in the blank using one of the subordinating conjunctions from the list. Use each word only once.

1. Bill will not pay $500 for a suit _____ he can certainly afford it.

2. _____ Juan is a very hard worker, his brother Luis is very lazy.

3. _____ Samantha moved to Boston, she has been very happy.

4. I have prepared a summary chart _____ you can understand conjunctions better.

5. _____ he was driving to work yesterday, Jason got a ticket for speeding.

6. _____ you had called me, I could have helped you.

7. _____ Henry has a job, he can pay his share of the rent.

8. David walks around _____ he is the president of the company.

9. I will stay with you _____ hell freezes over.

10. My new puppy follows me _____ I go.

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rather than		unless		before	
once		while		even if	because
	until		if		even though

Exercise 5:
Fill in the blank using one of the subordinating conjunctions from the list. Use each word only once.

1. I would not see that movie _____ you gave me $100.

2. _____ it is raining so hard, the game was cancelled.

3. _____ Sam was driving to school yesterday, he saw an accident.

4. I will love you _____ the end of time.

5. _____ he is the manager's son, he might still be fired because his work is so bad.

6. _____ you need help, just call me.

7. _____ Hank gets settled in, we will visit him.

8. I would like to drive _____ take the bus.

9. I cannot go to that expensive restaurant _____ you pay.

10. Leslie always drinks a cup of hot chocolate to relax her _____ she goes to sleep.

Exercise 6:

Sentence Stems. Write conclusions to the following sentences.

1. I don't like broccoli, but _____.

2. Victoria plays the piano, and _____.

3. Because it is so cold, _____.

4. I really love the music of Beethoven and _____.

5. Maya always studies hard for her exams, so _____.

6. Lester works for an electronics store, so _____.

7. Harvey is one of the best players on the team, but _____.

8. Toronto is a very safe city, and _____.

9. I don't like your cooking. Nor do I _____.

10. We will win the war, for we _____.

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both ... and	neither ... nor	not ... but
not only ... but also	either ... or
whether ... or	as ... as

Exercise 7:

Insert one pair of correlative conjunctions in the blanks. Use each pair only once.

1. Kenja is _____ fast _____ Martha. They have the same time in the 100 meters.

2. Vicky studies _____ biology _____ chemistry.

3. _____ the professors _____ the students like the new building.

4. Gino is _____ a waiter, _____ a cook instead.

5. I will go to _____ Bermuda _____ St. Thomas on vacation.

6. _____ you stay late _____ leave right now, I want to thank you for your help.

7. Henrietta has _____ an MBA _____ a PhD. That's incredible.

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Exercise 8:

Sentence beginnings. Write beginnings to the following sentences.

1. _____ because the weather is so bad.

2. _____, but she also loves to sing.

3. _____ because she is the best student in the class.

4. _____, or I may just stay home.

5. _____, but I got lost anyway.

6. _____, and he also owns two houses in the Dominican Republic.

7. _____, yet he still feels lonely.

8. _____, but her shirt was too small.

9. _____, and she also served excellent cheese.

10. _____, so she had to walk all the way home.

Exercise 9:

Combine the two sentences into one using the conjunction in parentheses.

1. My sister has many friends. She has not found a special one.   [while]

_____

2. John is only eight years old. He can play the piano very well.   [although]

_____

3. Alma ate the chicken and rice. She also ate two hamburgers.   [not only … but also]

_____

4. Ned is the manager of the bank. He doesn't make a high salary.   [though]

_____

5. Gino ate breakfast. Then he washed the dishes.   [after]

_____

6. Barbara arrived at home at eight. Then she called her sister.   [once]

_____

7. Bill will work late. In fact, he will work until 9:00 p.m.   [until]

_____

8. I will never go to that restaurant again. I will live a long time.   [as long as]

_____

9. Hal studied a lot. He still got a very low grade.   [even though]

_____

10. Everyone likes Hanna. She is patient and relaxed.   [because]

_____

Exercise 10:

Insert a conjunction in the blank.

1. I love Hee Jin, _____ she doesn't love me.

2. _____ Carlita studied all night, she still got a C.

3. You have worked very hard today, _____ you should take the day off tomorrow.

4. Irene has a house in Sicily _____ an apartment in Rome.

5. I will love you _____ the end of time.

6. Carlo cannot go to the theatre _____ you give him a ride.

7. _____ John is very cheap, his brother Bruce is very generous.

8. _____ I cleaned up the kitchen, I took a walk.

9. The professor cancelled the examination _____ the students were all late due to the storm.

10. I will follow you _____ you go.

Answer Key

Exercise 1: Fill in the correct coordinating conjunction in the blank [and, but, so].

1. so	2. and	3. but	4. but	5. so
6. so	7. but	8. and	9. but	10. so

Exercise 2: Fill in the correct coordinating conjunction in the blank [yet, for, nor, or].

1. or	2. nor	3. yet	4. yet	5. for
6. or	7. nor	8. or	9. yet	10. for
7.				

Exercise 3: Fill in the blank using one of the subordinating conjunctions from the list. Use each word only once.

1. as long as	2. whenever	3. because	4. than	5. before
6. in order that	7. unless	8. while	9. that	10. where

Exercise 4: Fill in the blank using one of the subordinating conjunctions from the list. Use each word only once.

1. though	2. whereas	3. since	4. so that	5. as
6. if only	7. now that	8. as if	9. till	10. wherever

Exercise 5: Fill in the blank using one of the subordinating conjunctions from the list. Use each word only once.

1. even if	2. because	3. while	4. until	5. even though
6. if	7. once	8. rather than	9. unless	10. before

Exercise 6: Sentence Stems. Write conclusions to the following sentences. **Answers will vary. Suggested answers:**
1. I don't like broccoli, but **[I do like carrots].**
2. Victoria plays the piano, and **[she also plays the guitar].**
3. Because it is so cold, **[we should stay home].**
4. I really love the music of Beethoven and **[Mozart]**.
5. Maya always studies hard for her exams, so **[she gets excellent grades]**.
6. Lester works for an electronics store, so **[he can get a discount on laptops]**.
7. Harvey is one of the best players on the team, but **[he is very selfish].**
8. Toronto is a very safe city, and **[Winnipeg is, too].**
9. I don't like your cooking.   Nor do I **[like the way you talk].**
10. We will win the war, for we **[are strong and united].**

Exercise 7: Insert one pair of correlative conjunctions in the blanks. Use each pair only once.

1. as ... as	2. not only ... but also	3. neither ... nor	4. not ... but
5. either ... or	6. whether ... or	7. both ... and	

Exercise 8: Sentence beginnings. Write beginnings to the following sentences. **Answers will vary. Suggested answers:**
1. **[We aren't going on the picnic]** because the weather is so bad.
2. **[Carla not only loves to dance]**, but she also loves to sing.
3. **[Everyone likes to sit next to Lucy on exam day]** because she is the best student in the class.
4. **[I might go to the movies]** or I may just stay home.
5. **[I used the GPS]**, but I got lost anyway.
6. **[Roger owns an apartment in Miami]**, and he also owns two houses in the Dominican Republic.
7. **[Wesley has many friends]**, yet he still feels lonely.
8. **[Sheila's skirt fit perfectly]**, but her shirt was too small.
9. **[Nikita served good wine]**, and she also served excellent cheese.
10. **[Paula's car broke down]**, so she had to walk all the way home.

Exercise 9: Combine the two sentences into one using the conjunction in parentheses.
1. While my sister has many friends, she has not found a special one.
2. Although John is only eight years old, he can play the piano very well.
3. Alma not only ate the chicken and rice, but she also ate two hamburgers.
4. Though Ned is the manager of the bank, he doesn't make a high salary.
5. After Gino ate breakfast, he washed the dishes.
6. Once Barbara arrived home, she called her sister.
7. Bill will work until 9:00 p.m.
8. I will never go to that restaurant again as long as I live.
9. Even though Hal studied a lot, he still got a very low grade.
10. Everyone likes Hanna because she is patient and relaxed.

Exercise 10: Insert a conjunction in the blank.

1. but	2. although	3. so	4. and	5. until
6. unless	7. while / whereas	8. after	9. because	10. wherever

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