

## Conjunctions

A **conjunction** connects words or group of words. There are three types of conjunctions: **coordinating conjunctions**, **correlative conjunctions**, and **subordinating conjunctions**. The first two types of conjunctions are discussed below, and the third type is discussed in lesson 2.19.

A **coordinating conjunction** is a single connecting word. These seven words are *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so*.

The boys *and* girls worked at the fair. (*And* joins the names *boys* and *girls*.)

Paula *or* Jeannine can go with you tonight. (*Or* joins the names *Paula* and *Jeannine*.)

I would like to help you, *but* I will be busy tonight. (*But* joins two sentences or complete ideas.)

We must leave early *so* we can get to the wedding reception on time. (*So* joins two sentences or two complete ideas.)

Remember the made-up word FANBOYS when you memorize the coordinating conjunctions. Each letter in this word (**F**or, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, **S**o) stands for a coordinating conjunction.


**Correlative conjunctions** are pairs of connecting words. These five pairs of words are *both/and, either/or, neither/nor, not only/but also, and whether/or*.

*Both* Henry *and* Henrietta are leaving the dance now. (The correlative conjunctions join two names.)

*Not only* will they leave now, *but* they will *also* not be here to help clean up. (The correlative conjunctions join two sentences or complete ideas.)

*Either* go with them *or* stay here and help. (The correlative conjunctions illustrate a choice.)

He went *neither* to the stadium *nor* to the concert hall during this vacation. (The correlative conjunctions join two prepositional phrases.)

 **WRITING TIP** Using conjunctions adds sophistication to sentences. Rather than using two very simple sentences such as, "The monkey climbed the tree," and "The monkey threw down a banana," combine them by using the conjunction and: "The monkey climbed the tree and threw down a banana" is a more sophisticated sentence. Make good use of the conjunctions for combining ideas.