

Literacy Toolkit

Simple conjunctions or joining words

Conjunctions are used to extend sentences. Without a conjunction, there can only be one verb in a sentence and it must end with a full stop.

Simple conjunctions

By using one of these conjunctions, you can make a sentence with two equal, balanced halves. Each side of the conjunction could stand on its own as a simple sentence. These conjunctions can only appear in the middle of the two sentences that are joined together.

And or but:

I like fruit and I like vegetables.

The conjunction and creates a balance to the sentence. It emphasises the two preferences for fruit and vegetables.

I like ice skating but I do not like roller-skating.

The conjunction but creates two contrasting halves.

Subordinating conjunctions

Most complex conjunctions can go either at the beginning or in the middle of the two sentences that have been joined together. Complex conjunctions are in **red** and verbs are in *italics*.

I like PE because it *keeps* me fit.

Because it keeps me fit, I like PE.

Notice that when the conjunction goes at the beginning, you need a comma between the two parts of the sentence. The part of the sentence that begins with these other kinds of conjunctions can't stand on its own. You could not have "Because it keeps me fit" as a sentence. It must be joined onto another sentence.

Time - after/as/before/since/till/until/when/while

- Anne worked in a bank after she passed her A Levels.
- After she passed her A Levels, Anne worked in a bank.

Place - where/wherever

- The ground is always moist where a river runs.
- Where a river runs, the ground is always moist.

Condition - if/unless/in case/as long as/supposing

- You can go out if you do your homework.
- If you do your homework, you can go out.

Concession - although/though/even if/whereas/even though

- The house survived although there was a flood.
- Although there was a flood, the house survived.

Literacy Toolkit

Contrast - whereas/while/whilst

- Sarah *enjoyed* swimming whereas Jane preferred running.
- Whereas Sarah *enjoyed* swimming, Jane preferred running.

Exception - except/except for the fact that/save that/excepting that

- I would go, except for the fact that I've got no money.
- Except for the fact that I've got no money, I would go.

Reason - because/since/for/as

- I passed my exams because I worked hard.
- Because I worked hard, I passed my exams.

Purpose - to/in order to/so as to/so that

- I saved all my wages to buy a PlayStation
- To buy a PlayStation, I saved all my wages.

Result - so

- He was tired so he went to bed.

(Please note that this conjunction can only be used in one person)

Similarity - as/like

- Do as I say.
- As I say, do.

Comparison - as it/as though/like

- They jumped as they had had an electric shock.
- As if they had had an electric shock, they jumped.

Preference - rather than/sooner than

- I would save rather than get into debt.
- Rather than get into debt, I would save.

Relative pronouns: these are another kind of joining word which enables sentences to be joined together.

- Who/whom/whose/which/that
- Who -> person
- Which -> thing
- That -> person/thing
- Whom -> person
- Whose -> person

- This is the boy who found my dog.
- John has another house, which he rents out.
- Up ahead I saw the house that I love.
- The boy whom the dog had attached lay bleeding
- There lay a horse whose leg was bleeding.