

# GRAMMAR

# Conjunctions

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A conjunction is a word that connects parts of speech such as nouns, phrases, clauses, and sentences.

**Coordinating Conjunctions:** For, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

To remember them, think FANBOYS!

**Beware:** *Then* and *Now* are not parts of the coordinating conjunctions. Whatever is discussed here does not apply to them. A coordinating conjunction connects two or more independent clauses and is preceded by a comma if it is followed by a clause.

## Examples:

- Jack loves to play basketball, **but** he does not have the talent.
- Sonia will land today, **and** she will teach her class in the evening.
- She is the love of my life, **for** I cannot forget her after all these years.

**Note:** When these conjunctions are used to connect nouns and phrases, they are not preceded by a comma.

## Examples:

- Use your credit card **and** your brains every day in order not to find yourself in deep debt.
- Live free **or** die hard.
- “To be **or** not to be, that’s the question” (Shakespeare).
- That is neither what I said **nor** what I meant.
- The guest complained about the noise **yet** continued to come to watch the news with us.

## **THEN AND THAN**

They look alike, sound alike, but they are different.

*Than* is used to make comparisons:

- He is taller and more handsome **than** I (am handsome).
- You can play football better **than** he (can play football).

**Difference:** *Then* is a transition word; it must be preceded by a period or a semicolon and followed by a comma. It introduces a complementary idea.

### Examples:

- Caesar invaded Gaul (France); **then**, he turned his attention to Angles-Land (England).
- Students read the book; **then**, they comment on the character relationships.

**Subordinating Conjunctions:** A subordinating conjunction comes at the beginning of a dependent clause. It turns a clause into a series of ideas that needs another clause (main clause) to make sense. Some subordinating conjunctions such as *after, before, since* can also be used as prepositions. These need to introduce a clause, to subordinate that clause to an independent clause to be called “conjunctions.”

**Common Subordinating Conjunctions:** After, although, as, as if, as long as, as though, because, before, even if, even though

If, if only, in order that, now that, once, rather than, since, so that, than, that

Though, till, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, wherever, while

### Examples:

- **Unless the professor ends the class now**, we will not catch the last bus.
- Mark refused to give up his role in the movie **because he loved acting**.

### The Use of *Like* and *As*

Like is a preposition, so it can be used before a noun or a prepositional phrase.

*My brother is tall like my father.*

It cannot be used here: *My friend cannot play football like he did before the accident.*

It should be: *My friend cannot play football as he did before the accident.*

- Like I told you yesterday, should be: As I told you yesterday.
- It looks like it is going to snow, should be: It looks as if it is going to snow.
- Jack was looking through the window like he was waiting for someone, should be:
- Jack was looking through the window as if he was waiting for someone.

**Correlative Conjunctions:** These always function in pairs to compare or contrast ideas:

Not only .... but also                      Whether .... or                      As .... as

Neither .... nor                              Either ..... or