

The Conjunction Pair Using Correlative Conjunctions

Reading and Discussion

Conjunctions are joining words. They join words with words, phrases with phrases or clauses with clauses. You might think of conjunctions as sentence glue. They hold parts together. There are three types of conjunctions:

1. Coordinating conjunctions. These conjunctions join equal parts together: words with words, phrases with phrases, and clauses with clauses. When coordinating conjunctions join two independent clauses together, the sentence they form is called a compound sentence.

2. Subordinating conjunctions. These conjunctions join unequal parts together. They join an independent clause to a dependent clause.

3. Correlative conjunctions. These conjunctions are used in pairs. If we use one part of the pair, we must also use the other. Here are some common correlative conjunctions:

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

- **Either** give Sammy a blanket, **or** he will get cold on the hay ride.
- Cindy gave **not only** cupcakes **but also** muffins to her class.

When using correlative conjunctions, be sure to join similar parts: nouns with nouns, adjectives with adjectives, prepositional phrases with prepositional phrases, etc.

- James is both **cheerful** and **friendly**. (Correct)
- James is both **cheerful** and **likes** to ride his bike. (Incorrect)

It is also important to place correlative conjunction near the words you want to connect.

- Sarah won awards **not only** in **French** class but also in Spanish. (Correct)
- Sarah **not only** won awards in **French** class but also in Spanish. (Incorrect)

You might notice that some of the same words used as correlative conjunctions are also used as coordinating conjunctions. The difference is that we must use a conjunction **pair** for the conjunctions to be correlative. We could use **either** as a coordinating conjunction, but, if we use **either/or** as a conjunction pair, the pair becomes a correlative conjunction.

Name _____

Date _____

Activities

Activity A: Let's Review

1. This conjunction is used only in pairs. What is it?

2. What is the name of the conjunction used to join equal parts?

3. Which kind of conjunction joins an independent clause to a dependent clause?

4. When using correlative conjunctions, must we always use two conjunctions?

5. Name two correlative conjunction pairs mentioned in this lesson.

6. When using correlative conjunctions, we must join _____ pairs.

7. Correlative conjunctions often use words similar to _____ conjunctions.

Activity B: In the following sentences, write **C** on the blank line if the correlative conjunction is used correctly, or **I** if the correlative conjunction is used incorrectly.

1. _____ Monica is both friendly and talented.

2. _____ Monica is both talented and runs faster than Jim.

Activity C: Underline the correlative conjunctions in the following sentences.

1. Marcia left not only her gloves, but also her purse on the train.

2. Either do your homework, or you will not pass this class.

3. Mrs. Thompson said neither Anne nor Jane won the spelling bee.

Name _____

Date _____

4. Just as we left the train station, so did Uncle Frank.
5. Whether we leave early or not is up to Grandma.
6. Bill said both Fern and Carol would win prizes in math.

Activity D: You Decide. Is the underlined conjunction in each sentence a coordinating or correlative conjunction? If it's a correlative, you should be able to find the second half of the pair. If the conjunction is a coordinating conjunction, write a **C** on the blank line. If the conjunction is part of a correlative conjunction pair, write a **P** on the blank line and **underline** the other half of the correlative conjunction.

1. ____ Either we will go to the movies or to the circus.
2. ____ Mark and James are brothers.
3. ____ Bill threw the football, but missed the goal post.
4. ____ Just as Amy dropped her books, so did I.
5. ____ Sam told us neither rain nor snow could stop the mailman.
6. ____ Do you want ice cream or cake?
7. ____ Our teacher gave us cookies, but forgot the milk.
8. ____ Both the girls' team and the boys' team played a great game.
9. ____ Amber asked whether we would visit at Christmas or at New Year's.
10. ____ The girls in my class like to make popcorn and brownies.

Answer Key

Activity A

1. This conjunction is only used in pairs. What is it? Correlative
2. What is the name of the conjunction used to join equal parts? Coordinating
3. Which conjunction joins an independent clause to a dependent clause? Subordinating
4. When using correlative conjunctions, do you always use two conjunctions? Yes
5. Name two correlative conjunction pairs mentioned in this lesson. Answers will vary but could include: both/and, either/or, neither/nor, whether/or, just as/so, not only/but also.
6. When using correlative conjunctions, we must join similar pairs.
7. Correlative conjunctions often use words similar to coordinating conjunctions.

Activity B

1. C Monica is both friendly and talented.
2. I Monica is both talented and runs faster than Jim.

Activity C

1. Marcia left not only her gloves, but also her purse on the train.
2. Either do your homework, or you will not pass this class.
3. Mrs.Thompson said neither Anne nor Jane won the spelling bee.
4. Just as we left the train station, so did Uncle Frank.
5. Whether we leave early or not is up to Grandma.
6. Bill said both Fern and Carol would win prizes in math.

Activity D

1. P Either we will go to the movies or to the circus.
2. C Mark and James are brothers.
3. C Bill threw the football but missed the goal post.
4. P Just as Amy dropped her books, so did I.
5. P Sam told us neither rain nor snow could stop the mailman.
6. C Do you want ice cream or cake?
7. C Our teacher gave us cookies but forgot the milk.
8. P Both the girls' team and the boys' team played a great game.
9. P Amber asked whether we'd visit at Christmas or at New Year's.
10. C The girls in my class like to make popcorn and brownies.