The Function of a Conjunction
Reviewing Conjunctions

Reading and Discussion

What is a conjunction? You might think of a conjunction as a joining word. It is a handy part of speech that works as a connector. It joins words, phrases, or clauses together.

Although conjunctions are similar to prepositions, they do a different kind of job. We can think of them as sentence glue holding parts together. The most common conjunctions are:

1. and
2. but
3. or

- Soupy and Stella are the names of my cats.

We can also use conjunctions to join phrases together. A phrase is a group of words that does not make a complete sentence. It doesn’t have a subject or a predicate, and it does not make a complete thought.

- Soupy the orange tabby and Stella the gray Manx are my cats.

Conjunctions can also join clauses together. What is a clause? There are two kinds:

1. Independent Clauses. These are similar to phrases with one exception. An independent clause does have a subject and a predicate. It makes a complete thought and could stand alone as a sentence.

   - Soupy plays with his catnip mouse.

2. Dependent Clauses. These clauses do not make a complete thought. They cannot stand alone as a sentence. It is dependent on the independent clause to make sense.

   - Whenever he’s bored.

This is a dependent clause. It could not stand alone as a sentence. The word whenever is a conjunction. Let’s join this clause to an independent clause to make a sentence.

   - Soupy plays with his catnip mouse, whenever he’s bored.

There are three main types of conjunctions:

1. Coordinating conjunctions join equal parts together: words with words, phrases with phrases, and clauses with clauses. They can even join two independent clauses together.
to make a compound sentence. A compound sentence is a sentence made from two independent thoughts. Each thought could stand alone and make one complete sentence. Here are the most common coordinating conjunctions:

- and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet

2. **Subordinating conjunctions** are used to join dependent clauses to independent clauses. They join unequal parts. Here are some common subordinating conjunctions:

- after, that, if, where, wherever

3. **Correlative conjunctions** are conjunctions used in pairs. For example:

- either/or, both/and, just as/so

There is a fourth kind of conjunction called an **adverbial conjunction** or **conjunctive adverb**, but there are only a few of these:

- accordingly, consequently, hence, however, moreover, nevertheless, therefore

The adverbial conjunction joins clauses of equal value, like a coordinating conjunction.

Remember: There are three main types of conjunctions and a fourth type known as an **adverbial conjunction**.

When punctuating a sentence with an adverbial conjunction, use a **semicolon** in front of the conjunction and a **comma** after the conjunction.

Tom and Huck forgot the oars; **consequently**, the raft floated away.
Activities

Activity A: Let’s Review Conjunctions

1. Conjunctions are ___________________________ words.

2. There are ___________________________ main types of conjunctions.

3. The three main types of conjunctions are: _____________________________,
   _____________________________ and _____________________________.

4. A fourth type of conjunction is known as the ___________________________ conjunction.

5. An ___________________________ clause makes a complete thought and could stand alone as a sentence.

6. A ___________________________ clause could not stand alone and does not make a complete thought.

7. What are the three most common conjunctions? A)______ b)______ c)______

Activity B: Write T if the statement is true. Write F if the statement is False.

1. _____ A phrase is the same as a clause.

2. _____ A subordinating conjunction joins two equal clauses.

3. _____ Coordinating conjunctions join equal parts in a sentence.

4. _____ The word ‘and’ is a conjunction.

5. _____ When using an adverbial conjunction, the semicolon comes before the conjunction.

6. _____ There are six types of conjunctions.

7. _____ A conjunction is a part of speech.
Answer Key

Activity A

1. Conjunctions are joining words.

2. There are three main types of conjunctions.

3. The three main types of conjunctions are coordinating, subordinating, and correlative.

4. A fourth type of conjunction is known as the adverbial conjunction.

5. An independent clause makes a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence.

6. A dependent clause cannot stand alone and does not make a complete thought.

7. What are the three most common conjunctions? and, but and or.

Activity B

1. F A phrase is the same as a clause.

2. F A subordinating conjunction joins two equal clauses.

3. T Coordinating conjunctions join equal parts in a sentence.

4. T The word ‘and’ is a conjunction.

5. T When using an adverbial conjunction, the semicolon comes before the conjunction.

6. F There are six types of conjunctions.

7. T Conjunctions are a part of speech.