

Name _____

Date _____

Conjunctions

What is a **conjunction**? The best way to think about conjunctions is to think of them as a glue that links words or groups of words together.

For example:

I want a hamburger *and* fries.

Without the conjunction *and* you wouldn't be able to say you need fries too in one sentence! You'd waste time talking when you could be eating!

Conjunctions can also tell us what we don't want.

For example:

I want a hamburger, *not* fries.

One word conjunctions that link a word or phrase together are called coordinating conjunctions. The most common are *and*, *or*, *but*, *so*.

When the groups of words these conjunctions link together could be complete sentences by themselves, you need to use a comma right before the conjunction.

For example:

I went to your house yesterday, *but* your mom said you weren't home.

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Conjunctions (Cont'd)

Sometimes conjunctions must be used in pairs. These are called correlative conjunctions. The most common are *both...and*, *either...or*, *neither...nor*, *not only...but also*.

For example:

Not only did she drink the last bit of orange juice, *but also* the last bit of milk too!

The final type of conjunction is a little tricky. They are called subordinating conjunctions and they link together words that could be a whole sentence and a group of words that usually couldn't stand on their own.

They could show the relationship between the two groups of words in time, with words like *after*, *when*, *until*.

For example:

I want to go to the park, *after* my homework is done.

Subordinating conjunctions like *because*, *so*, *now that* are used to show cause and effect between groups of words.

I stayed out too late, *now* I'm in trouble.

Conjunctions such as *although*, *while*, *even though*, *instead of* show that the groups of words work against each other.

I wanted to eat pizza, *instead of* broccoli.

Finally, subordinate conjunctions such as *if*, *unless*, *in case of*, *whether* show that one group of words may happen when something else happens.

I can go to the carnival, *if* my room is clean.

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Conjunctions Questions

Circle the conjunctions in the following sentences:

- 1) I want to have a pony, but my mom won't let me.
- 2) She couldn't decide if she wanted gummy bears or chocolate.
- 3) I can ride my bike, when I finish my chores.
- 4) I like pepperoni pizza, while my brother likes plain cheese.

Fill in the blanks with a conjunction that makes sense:

- 5) I want macaroni _____ cheese, please.
- 6) She said she hurt her knee _____ she fell off her bicycle.
- 7) I'd rather go to the dentist _____ of going to my aunt Edna's.
- 8) I have to stay after school _____ I was talking in class.

Fill in the blanks with the right pairs of conjunctions: (Look on the previous page if you need help)

- 9) _____ me _____ my brother have red hair.
- 10) My mom said I can _____ play baseball _____ play football.
- 11) I am finally _____ too young _____ too short to ride the roller coaster this year!
- 12) Our science teacher _____ told us we will have a lot of homework, _____ told us we'll be having a pop quiz.

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Conjunctions Answers

Circle the conjunctions in the following sentences:

- 1) I want to have a pony, (but) my mom won't let me.
- 2) She couldn't decide if she wanted gummy bears (or) chocolate.
- 3) I can ride my bike, (when) I finish my chores.
- 4) I like pepperoni pizza, (while) my brother likes plain cheese.

Fill in the blanks with a conjunction that makes sense:

- 5) I want macaroni and cheese, please.
- 6) She said she hurt her knee before she fell off her bicycle.
- 7) I'd rather go to the dentist instead of going to my aunt Edna's.
- 8) I have to stay after school because I was talking in class.

Fill in the blanks with the right pairs of conjunctions: (Look on the previous page if you need help)

- 9) Both me and my brother have red hair.
- 10) My mom said I can either play baseball or play football.
- 11) I am finally neither too young nor too short to ride the roller coaster this year!
- 12) Our science teacher not only told us we will have a lot of homework, but also told us we'll be having a pop quiz.