

The Conjunctions



**COORDINATING, SUBORDINATING, AND
RELATIVE**

Conjunctions Defined



- A **conjunction** is a word that is used to join two clauses.
- There are several types of conjunctions, but we'll worry only about **coordinating** and **subordinating** conjunctions.

Subordinating



- A subordinating conjunction makes an independent clause into a dependent clause. In other words, it takes a complete thought and turns it into an incomplete thought.
- Ex:
 - He ate four chalupas and three pork chops.
(Complete thought and an independent clause)
 - **After** he ate four chalupas and three pork chops ...
(Incomplete thought and a dependent clause)

Subordinating



- Subordinating conjunctions force us to join dependent clauses to independent clauses. Otherwise our sentences won't make sense.
- Ex:
 - **After** he ate four chalupas and three pork chops, **Alfred felt ill.**
(Dependent) (Independent)

Common Subordinating Conjunctions



after
although
as
because
before
even if
even though
if
in order that

once
provided that
rather than
since
so that
than
that
though
unless

until
when
whenever
where
whereas
wherever
whether
while
why

Common subordinating Conjunctions



- The examples on the previous slide were just a few of the numerous subordinating conjunctions.
- The easiest way to spot a subordinating conjunction is not to remember them all individually but to remember what they do to a clause. If a word turns a formerly independent clause into a dependent clause, then it is a subordinating conjunction.

Coordinating Conjunctions



- A coordinating conjunction joins two independent clauses.
- When two clauses are joined by coordinating conjunctions, both are considered as still being independent.

Clutches and Crazyglue



- Unlike a subordinating conjunction, which is considered as a part of the clause itself, a coordinating conjunction is not considered a part of the clause.
- If a subordinating conjunction is like glue in that it joins or “sticks” to the clause in which it occurs, you can think of a coordinating conjunction as a clutch – it comes between two clauses and helps you to shift from the one to the other, but it doesn’t join or stick to either.

Examples of Coordination



- Althea studied for years to learn to play the flute, **and** now she teaches others at the Auburn Conservatory.
- Note that both clauses are still independent and capable of existing apart from each other.
 - Althea studied for years to learn to play the flute.
 - Now she teaches others at the Auburn Conservatory.

*(“**And**” is not considered part of the clause, remember, so it drops away).*

Further Examples



- John always wanted to be a writer, **but** he couldn't tell a story to save his life.
- Craig found out about the Navy's offer to pay his college loans, **so** he paid the local recruiter a visit.

FANBOYS



- An easy way to remember the 7 coordinating conjunctions:

For

And

Nor

But

Or

Yet

So

Either-OR



- The great thing about coordinating conjunctions is that there are only seven of them. You can memorize them easily (especially with FANBOYS).
- This also helps with spotting subordinating conjunctions. For the purposes of this class, if a conjunction is not coordinating, then it's subordinating.