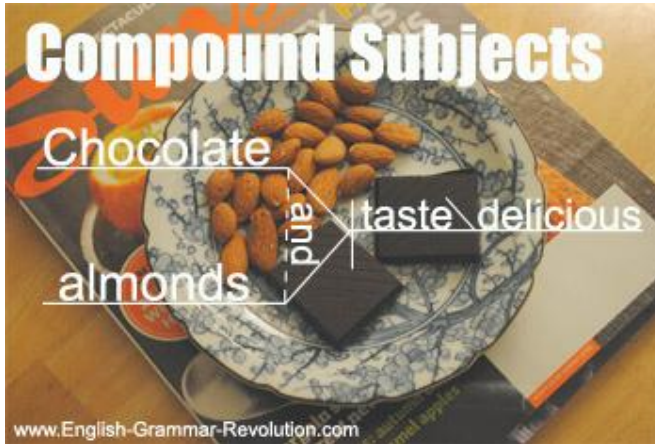


## What is a conjunction?

A conjunction is a word that joins two or more words, [phrases](#), or [clauses](#).



Think of them as **gluing words**. They glue words, phrases, or clauses together.

For example, if you would like to have your friend bring music and snacks to your party, it's pretty hard to do it without a **conjunction**.

You could say:

"Bring music. Bring snacks."

But it's more efficient to say:

"Bring music **and** snacks."

And it's more polite to say: 😊

"**Please** bring music **and** snacks."

See how the conjunction *and* glues the words *music* and *snacks* together?

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## Words, Phrases, and Clauses

Okay, read this question and then try to answer it with your eyes closed: What is a conjunction?

How did you do? Did you remember that they join words, phrases, and clauses?

**Words:** silver **and** gold

**Phrases:** over the river **and** through the woods

**Clauses:** Marianne planted a flower, **and** she watched it grow.

In all of the above examples, we used the conjunction *and* which is one of the most common conjunctions.

But, of course, there are many more conjunctions out there. While all conjunctions perform the same basic function (gluing things together), there are three types of conjunctions:

**coordinating**, **subordinating**, and **correlative**. To see a list of these conjunctions, [click here](#).



**What is a conjunction? It is a gluing word.**

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## Coordinating Conjunctions

These are the **most common**, and there are only seven of them (**for**, **and**, **nor**, **but**, **or**, **yet**, **so**). Some people remember these with the acronym FANBOYS. They glue together sentence elements that are **equal**.

Such as...

**Two words:** pie **or** cake

**Two phrases:** in the car **or** on the bike

**Two independent clauses:** You must study, **or** you won't learn grammar.

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## Subordinating Conjunctions

These conjunctions **glue** subordinate clauses to independent clauses.

A subordinate clause is a clause that cannot stand alone. (Remember that a clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb.) It is always introduced by a subordinating conjunction.

### Subordinate Clause Examples :

**unless** you are allergic

**whenever** I see your cat

**since** you are coming

These are not complete sentences. They all have subjects ( *you, I, you* ) and verbs ( *are, see, are coming* ), but since they cannot stand alone, they are subordinate clauses.

An independent clause is also a group of words with a subject and a verb. But, unlike a subordinate clause, an independent clause **can** stand alone.

### Independent Clause Examples :

I will bring my cat.

I sneeze.

I won't bring my cat.

These are all complete sentences. They all have subjects ( *I* ), verbs ( *will bring, sneeze, won't bring* ), and they can stand alone.

Subordinating conjunctions let us join subordinate clauses with independent clauses:

### Examples:

I will bring my cat **unless** you are allergic.

**Whenever** I see your cat, I sneeze.

**Since** you are coming, I won't bring my cat.

---

## Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions are always used in **pairs**. (either... or, both... and).

### Example:

**Both** David **and** I are allergic to cats.

**Either** Mom **or** Dad will pick you up.

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## Start Basic Sentence Diagramming!

When you see how conjunctions are diagrammed, it will be easy to see how they are "gluing" words.

Now you can answer all of those people who keep asking you, "Excuse me, what is a conjunction?"