List of Conjunctions used in English

Conjunctions join words, phrases and clauses together. This article provides a brief overview of the different types of conjunctions and their function in sentences.

1. Coordinating Conjunctions

- but
- so
- or
- and

Coordinating conjunctions join words, phrases, or independent clauses of a sentence together. They often link similar grammatical parts of a sentence together (parts of speech + parts of speech / phrase + phrase / clause + clause). Here are some example sentences:

1. We went to the park, **but** we did not have time for the museum.
2. She has to work late tonight, **so** she cannot make it to party.
3. Let's meet at the beach **or** in front of the hotel.
4. On Friday night we **and** watched TV and a movie.

In a sentence, **Coordinating conjunctions** come in between the individual words, phrases, and independent clauses they are joining.

2. Subordinating Conjunctions

- after / before
- although / even though
- because / as
- if
- as long as / provided that
- till / until
- unless
- when / once / as soon as
- while / whereas
- in spite of / despite

Subordinating conjunctions join an **independent clause** (which contains both a subject and a verb and can act as a complete sentence) and a **dependent clause** (which also contains a subject and a verb, but is not a complete sentence). Here are some example sentences:

1. They went running, **although / even though** it was very hot.
2. We went to the beach **despite / in spite of** the rainy weather.
3. We decided to go to the cinema **because / as** it was too cold to go to the beach.
4. Monica lives in New York, **while / whereas** her brother lives in California.
5. He went to work **after** he (had) finished his breakfast.
6. He finished breakfast before he went to work.
7. I will go there if/ provided that/as long as you go too.
8. I won’t go there unless you go too
9. We can leave when/ once you are ready.
10. You can’t drive until/till you get your licence.

**Subordinating conjunctions** always come at the beginning of a dependent clause. However, **dependent clauses** can sometimes come before an independent clause (separated by a comma). So, we could write the above sentences this way:

1. Although/ Even though it was very hot, they went running.
2. Despite/ In spite of the rainy weather, we went to the beach.
3. Because/as it was too cold to go to the beach, we decided to go to the cinema.
4. While/ Whereas her brother lives in California, Monica lives in New York.
5. After he (had) finished his breakfast, he went to work.
6. Before he went to work, he finished his breakfast.
7. If/ Provided that/ As long as you go too, I will go there.
8. Unless you go too, I won’t go there.
9. When/ Once you are ready, we can leave.
10. Until/ Till you get your licence, you can’t drive.

**Coordinating conjunctions** join parts of sentence that are similar whereas **subordinating conjunctions** often shows a contrasting or unequal relationship.

### 3. Linking words across sentences

**Linking words across sentences** always link a second sentence to an idea in the previous sentence. That means they come at the **beginning** of the second sentence.

- In addition, / Furthermore,
- However, / On the other hand,
- Therefore, / Consequently,
- First(ly), / Second(ly), / Third(ly), / Finally,

**Linking words across sentences** are used either for **contrast with the previous sentence** or for **continuing the same idea**. Here are some examples:

Perth is a nice place to live for many reasons including the fantastic summer weather and the beaches and parks. **In addition, / Furthermore,** there are a lot of pubs, clubs, restaurants and cafes to enjoy. **However, / On the other hand,** there is not much to do in winter when it is cold and rainy and not much fun to do outdoor activities. **Therefore, / Consequently,** if you are planning to visit Perth, it is best to come between November and April which is the hottest time.

Before you travel you need to think about a number of things. **First(ly),** make sure your passport is up-to-date. **Second(ly),** get some travel insurance in case something goes wrong on your trip. **Third(ly),** make sure you pack a hat, a pair of sunglasses and some strong sunscreen for the beach. **Finally,** change some money into Aussie dollars before you leave your country.
Choose the best word or phrase to fill the gaps

We ate a pizza ________ a kebab. (BUT / AND / SO)

We had some cake ________ we didn’t have any coffee. (UNLESS / UNTIL / BUT)

I had a headache ________ I didn’t go to the party. (WHEN / SO / WHEREAS)

You can have a coffee ________ a tea but not both. (OR / TILL / BUT)

I can’t come to school ________ I have an important appointment. (SO / BECAUSE / UNLESS)

I will call you ________ I get home. (AS / AND / WHEN)

_________ you do your homework, you will pass the course. (UNLESS / UNTIL / AS LONG AS)

I wanted to eat Japanese food ________ my wife wanted to eat Chinese food. (SO / WHEN / WHEREAS)

You cannot go into that bar ________ you are 18 or older. (PROVIDED THAT / UNLESS / AS)

She still went to work ________ she was sick. (EVEN THOUGH / UNTIL / IF)

Don’t call me ________ you have finished your work. (UNTIL / WHILE / AS LONG AS)

_________ the bad weather, they decided to have a picnic. (BECAUSE / DESPITE / WHEREAS)

Wash your hands ________ you eat your dinner. (TILL / WHEN / BEFORE)

I did not have the correct visa. ________, I could not enter the country. (BECAUSE / AS / CONSEQUENTLY)

I like milk, butter, cream and yoghurt. ________, I don’t like cheese. (SO / HOWEVER / AND)

He did not pass the exam because he had not studied or done his homework. ________, he did not go to school on the exam day. (OR / UNTIL / IN ADDITION)

You can have an ice-cream ________ you have finished you homework. (SO/PROVIDED THAT/OR)

_________ John was fixing the car, his wife was making sandwiches. (WHILE / UNTIL / DESPITE)

He could not get the job ________ his excellent qualifications. (BECAUSE / WHILE / IN SPITE OF)

I will love you ________ I die. (AFTER / UNLESS / TILL)

I had a shower ________ I got home. (BUT / AS SOON AS / UNTIL)

_________ you don’t work hard you won’t get a promotion. (IF / SO / AS LONG AS)

You won’t get a promotion ________ you work hard. (WHILE / UNLESS / BECAUSE)

_________ we had no money, we still had a good time. (FINALLY / HOWEVER / ALTHOUGH)
We ate a pizza and a kebab.

We had some cake but we didn’t have any coffee.

I had a headache so I didn’t go to the party.

You can have a coffee or a tea but not both.

I can’t come to school because I have an important appointment.

I will call you when I get home.

As long as you do your homework, you will pass the course.

I wanted to eat Japanese food whereas my wife wanted to eat Chinese food.

You cannot go into that bar unless you are 18 or older.

She still went to work even though she was sick.

Don’t call me until you have finished your work.

Despite the bad weather, they decided to have a picnic.

Wash your hands before you eat your dinner.

I did not have the correct visa. Consequently, I could not enter the country.

I like milk, butter, cream and yoghurt. However, I don’t like cheese.

He did not pass the exam because he had not studied or done his homework. In addition, he did not go to school on the exam day.

You can have an ice-cream provided that you have finished you homework.

While John was fixing the car, his wife was making sandwiches.

He could not get the job in spite of his excellent qualifications.

I will love you till I die.

I had a shower as soon as I got home.

If you don’t work hard you won’t get a promotion.

You won’t get a promotion unless you work hard.

Although we had no money, we still had a good time.