HOME

CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions are words used as joiners.

Different kinds of conjunctions join different kinds of grammatical structures.

The following are the **kinds of conjunctions:**

A. COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS (FANBOYS)

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

Coordinating conjunctions join equals to one another:

words to words,   phrases to phrases,   clauses to clauses.

Examples:

word to word	Most children like *cookies **and** milk*.
phrase to phrase	The gold is hidden *at the beach **or** by the lakeside*.
clause to clause	*What you say **and** what you do* are two different things.

Coordinating conjunctions usually form looser connections than other conjunctions do.

Examples:

Marge was late for work, ***and*** she received a cut in pay.   (very loose)

Marge was late for work, ***so*** she received a cut in pay.   (loose)

Because Marge was late for work, she received a cut in pay.
(The subordinate conjunction ***because*** creates a tighter link between the two ideas.)

Coordinating conjunctions go in between items joined, not at the beginning or end.

Examples:

Correct: I like coffee, ***but I*** don't like tea.

Incorrect: ***But*** I don't like tea, I like coffee.

Punctuation with coordinating conjunctions:

When a coordinating conjunction joins **two** words, phrases, or subordinate clauses, no comma should be placed before the conjunction.

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Examples:
    words:      cookies and milk.
    phrases:      at the beach or by the lakeside.
    subordinate clauses:   what you say and what you do
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A coordinating conjunction joining **three or more** words, phrases, or subordinate clauses creates a series and requires commas between the elements.

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Examples:
    words:      peanuts, cookies, and milk.
    phrases:   in the mountains, at the beach, or by the lakeside.
    subordinate clauses:  what you think, what you say, and what you do
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A coordinating conjunction joining **two independent clauses** creates a compound sentence and requires a comma before the coordinating conjunction

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Examples:
    Tom ate all the peanuts, so Phil ate the cookies.
    I don't care for the beach, but I enjoy a good vacation in the mountains.
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B. CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

either. . .or   *both. . . and*
neither. . . nor   *not only. . . but also*

These pairs of conjunctions require equal (parallel) structures after each one.

Faulty: Clara *not only* <u>wants money</u> *but also* <u>fame</u>.

Correct: Clara wants *not only* <u>money</u> *but also* <u>fame</u>.

Correct: Clara *not only* <u>wants money</u> *but also* <u>wants fame</u>.

C. CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS

These conjunctions join independent clauses together.

<u>The following are frequently used conjunctive adverbs</u>:

after all	*in addition*	*next*
also	*incidentally*	*nonetheless*
as a result	*indeed*	*on the contrary*
besides	*in fact*	*on the other hand*
consequently	*in other words*	*otherwise*
finally	*instead*	*still*
for example	*likewise*	*then*
furthermore	*meanwhile*	*therefore*
hence	*moreover*	*thus*
however	*nevertheless*	

Examples:

The tire was flat; **therefore**, we called a service station.

It was a hot day; **nevertheless**, the roofers worked on the project all day.

Punctuation: Place a semicolon before the conjunctive adverb and a comma after the conjunctive adverb.

D. SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

<u>These words are commonly used as subordinating conjunctions</u>

after	*in order (that)*	*unless*
although	*insofar as*	*until*
as	*in that*	*when*
as far as	*lest*	*whenever*
as soon as	*no matter how*	*where*
as if	*now that*	*wherever*
as though	*once*	*whether*
because	*provided (that)*	*while*

before	*since*	*why*
even if	*so that*	
even though	*supposing (that)*	
how	*than*	
if	*that*	
inasmuch as	*though*	
in case (that)	*till*	

Subordinating conjunctions also join two clauses together, but in doing so, they make one clause dependent (or "subordinate") upon the other.

Examples:

It is raining.

We have an umbrella. — Both are independent clauses, simple sentences.

Add **because** to **It is raining**.

because it is raining — This is no longer an independent clause or sentence.

Put the two clauses together.

Because it is raining, we have an umbrella.

OR

We have an umbrella because it is raining.

A subordinating conjunction may appear at a sentence beginning or between two clauses in a sentence.
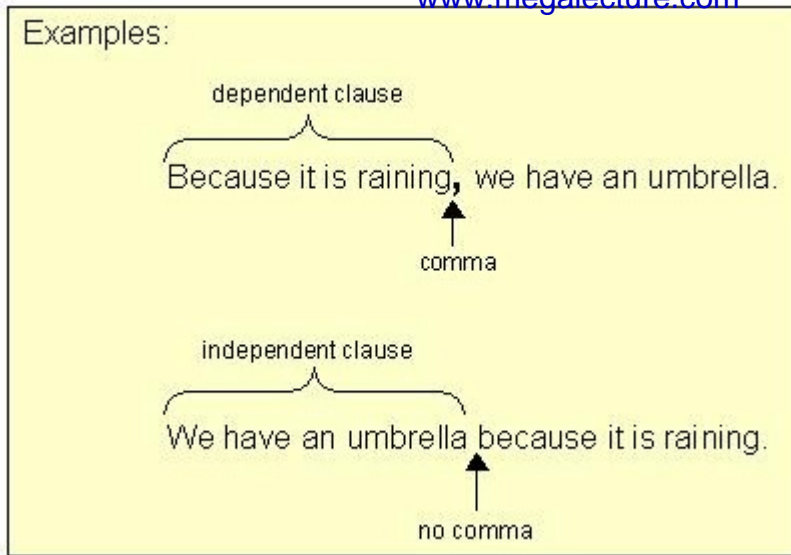
A subordinate conjunction usually provides a tighter connection between clauses than a coordinating conjunctions does.

Loose:　　It is raining, *so* we have an umbrella.

Tight:　　*Because it is raining*, we have an umbrella.

Punctuation Note:

When the dependent clause is placed first in a sentence, use a comma between the two clauses. When the independent clause is placed first and the dependent clause second, do not separate the two clauses with a comma.

Examples:

dependent clause

Because it is raining, we have an umbrella.

comma

independent clause

We have an umbrella because it is raining.

no comma