

SECTION 17 conjunctions

grammar summary

after although and as soon as because before but so until when while
 both ... and either ... or neither ... nor (For if, see Section 18.)
 (If necessary, use a dictionary to check the meanings of these conjunctions.)

We use **conjunctions** to join sentences together.

*I went to Germany **because** Emma was there. We went home **after** the concert finished.
 I phoned **as soon as** I got the news.*

Some conjunctions (and the words that follow them) can go in **two places**.

*I cleaned my room **before** I went out. **Before** I went out, I cleaned my room.*

We use **present tenses** to talk about the **future** with **time-conjunctions**.

*I'll phone you **when** I arrive. Let's wait here **until** somebody comes.
 She'll pay you **as soon as** she has the money.*

We can use **and** to join sentences, shorter expressions or single words. We **don't** need to **repeat unnecessary words** with **and**.

*I went downstairs **and** (I) opened the door. I've got friends in Canada **and** (in) Australia.
 Could I have a knife **and** (a) fork?*

• We stayed in • **because** • it was raining. •

After • she got married, •
 • she changed her job. •

• Ann phoned • **when** • you were out. •

• I won't be happy • **until** • I leave school. •

conjunctions: introduction *and, but, because ...*

Conjunctions are words like *and, but, because, although, if, while, so, until*. We use conjunctions to **join sentences together**.

<i>It was cold</i>	and	<i>I wanted to go home.</i>
<i>I like him</i>	but	<i>I don't like her.</i>
<i>He got up</i>	although	<i>he was ill.</i>
<i>I didn't buy it</i>	because	<i>it was too expensive.</i>
<i>I'll phone you</i>	if	<i>the train is late.</i>
<i>Andrew called</i>	while	<i>you were out.</i>
<i>It was raining</i>	so	<i>I took my umbrella.</i>
<i>I waited</i>	until	<i>Mary was ready.</i>
<i>Let's go out</i>	as soon as	<i>Peter arrives.</i>

1 Circle the best conjunction.

- I'll phone you *although / so / when* I arrive.
- The party was boring, *although / because / so* I went home.
- The weather was nice, *although / or / until* it was a bit cold.
- She speaks good French, *after / because / but* she has a strong English accent.
- I enjoyed my month in Argentina, *although / and / but* I learnt a lot of Spanish.
- I'll tell you my plans *because / so / while* we're having lunch.
- I helped him *after / because / or* he was a good friend.
- I'll wait here with you *as soon as / until* your train leaves.
- Let's talk about the future *while / because / or* we're walking.
- You can pay me now *or / so / because* I can wait until next week.
- Please come and see us *before / as soon as / although* you can.

2 Choose the best conjunction to join the sentences. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- I lived in Liverpool. I left school. (*if, although, until*)
I lived in Liverpool until I left school.
- We'll be glad. This job is finished. (*when, or, while*)
- I'll be very angry. You do that again. (*and, if, but*)
- I'd like to talk to you. You go home. (*before, and, although*)
- Sue watched TV. John came home. (*if, until, or*)
- We'll see you again. We come back from holiday. (*while, after, and*)
- I like her. She's a difficult person. (*because, before, although*)
- Henry didn't like working in a bank. He changed his job. (*if, or, so*)
- They think they can do what they like. They're rich. (*because, although, until*)
- I want to stop working. I'm 50. (*if, before, and*)
- You look beautiful. You're smiling. (*or, so, when*)

position of conjunctions *If you need help, ask me.*

When we use **conjunctions**, there are often **two possibilities**.

1 Start with the conjunction (and the part that follows it).	2 Put the conjunction between the two parts of the sentence.
CONJUNCTION bbbbbb, aaaaa	Aaaaa(,) CONJUNCTION bbbbbb
<i>IF you need help, please ask me.</i>	<i>Please ask me IF you need help.</i>
<i>WHEN you are in London, phone us.</i>	<i>Phone us WHEN you are in London.</i>
<i>ALTHOUGH it was raining, I went out.</i>	<i>I went out, ALTHOUGH it was raining hard.</i>
<i>AS SOON AS she could, she went to bed.</i>	<i>She went to bed AS SOON AS she could.</i>

Note that we often put **commas (,)** in sentences with conjunctions, especially in longer sentences. We **usually** use a **comma** if we **start** with the conjunction.

1 Put these sentences together in two ways.

- I enjoyed the film. The beginning was boring. (*although*)
I enjoyed the film, although the beginning was boring.
Although the beginning was boring, I enjoyed the film.
- I put on two sweaters. It was very cold. (*because*)
- I'm going to work in Australia. I leave school. (*when*)
- I go and see Felix. I want to talk to somebody. (*if*)
- Ann made coffee. Bill fried some eggs. (*while*)
- I was interested in the conversation. I didn't understand everything. (*although*)
- We went to a restaurant. There was no food in the house. (*because*)
- We'll have a big party. John comes home. (*when*)
- I stayed with friends. My parents were travelling. (*while*)
- I go for long walks at the weekend. The weather's fine. (*if*)
- Come and see us. You arrive in Scotland. (*as soon as*)

NOTE: *and, but, or* and *so* always come **between** the two parts of the sentence.

tenses with time conjunctions *I'll see you before you go.*

We use the **simple present** with a **future** meaning after **before, after, while, until, when** and **as soon as**.

*I'll see you **before** you go. (NOT ... before you will go.) We'll talk about it **after** I get back.*

*You can use my car **while** I'm in Ireland. Don't move **until** I tell you.*

*He'll phone **when** he gets home. (NOT ... when he will get home.)*

*We'll start the party **as soon as** Alice arrives.*

1 Put in verbs from the box. Use the simple present.

arrive be finish get go hear leave make open ✓ stop write

- ▶ Wait here until Jane opens the door.
- 1 Call me as soon as you about the exam.
- 2 Can you hold the baby while I coffee?
- 3 What's John going to do when he school?
- 4 Give my love to Sue when you to her.
- 5 I'll cook supper after I back from the gym.
- 6 I'm going to travel round the world before I 60.
- 7 I'm not going out until the rain
- 8 Will you stay in while I shopping?
- 9 We'll call you as soon as we in Paris.
- 10 We'll go for a drink after the class

2 Put in verbs from the box (simple present or will).

come find get give ✓ help look after look start stop tell travel

- ▶ I 'll give you my address before I say goodbye.
- 1 Lisa's going to live here until she a job.
- 2 We're going to look after Sue's flat while she round America.
- 3 I you to clean the flat after I get back from work.
- 4 We're early – we've got half an hour before the lesson
- 5 I you the price as soon as I know myself.
- 6 Can I go and see Maggie while you the kids?
- 7 When I get time, I for a new place to live.
- 8 Mum's going to move to Scotland after she work.
- 9 I'll bring you a present when I home.
- 10 Things worse before they get better.

3 Write five or more sentences about yourself, using some of the beginnings in the box.

When I leave school, I'll ... When I finish university, I'll ... When I get married, I'll ...
 When I have children, I'll ... When my children leave home, I'll ... When I stop work, I'll ...
 When I have time, I'll ... When I'm 20/30/40/50/60/70/80/90/100, I'll ...

- 1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7

because and so; although and but

We can say **why** things happen with **because** or **so** (but not both).

***Because** Sue was tired, she went to bed. / Sue went to bed **because** she was tired.*

***OR** Sue was tired, **so** she went to bed. (BUT NOT ~~Because Sue was tired, so she went to bed.~~)*

We usually put a **comma** (,) before **so**. For more about commas with conjunctions, see page 235.

1 Join the sentences with **because** (twice) and with **so**.

- ▶ He passed the exam. He had a good teacher.
Because he had a good teacher, he passed the exam.
He passed the exam because he had a good teacher.
He had a good teacher, so he passed the exam.

- 1 I changed my hotel. The rooms were dirty.

- 2 The taxi was late. We missed the train.

- 3 I didn't like the film. I walked out of the cinema.

We can say that things are **not as we expect** with **although** or **but** (but not both).

***Although** Pete was tired, he didn't go to bed. / Pete didn't go to bed, **although** he was tired.*

***OR** Pete was tired, **but** he didn't go to bed. (BUT NOT ~~Although Pete was tired, but he didn't go to bed.~~)*

We usually put **commas** before **although** and **but**.

2 Join the sentences with **although** (twice) and with **but**.

- ▶ She passed the exam. She had a bad teacher.
Although she had a bad teacher, she passed the exam.
She passed the exam, although she had a bad teacher.
She had a bad teacher, but she passed the exam.

- 1 I felt ill. I went on working.

- 2 She was very kind. I didn't like her.

- 3 He's a big man. He doesn't eat much.

and I speak Russian, English and Swahili.

We can use **and** to join sentences, shorter expressions or single words.

Sylvia won the first game **and** Pete won the second.
 'What's she interested in?' 'Scottish dancing **and** mountain climbing.'
 'What shall we have for supper?' 'Fish **and** chips.'

In lists, we usually put **and** between the last two things, and commas (,) between the others.

We need soap, bread, orange juice, **tomatoes and sugar**.
 She was beautiful, **intelligent and kind**. (NOT ... beautiful, intelligent, kind.)

- 1 Write the sentences using **and** and commas.
- She speaks (French German Japanese Arabic).
 She speaks French, German, Japanese and Arabic.
 - 1 My company has offices in (London Tokyo New York Cairo).
 - 2 I've invited (Paul Alexandra Eric Luke Janet).
 - 3 I'll be here on (Tuesday Thursday Friday Sunday).
 - 4 She's got (five cats two dogs a horse a rabbit).
 - 5 He plays (golf rugby hockey badminton).
 - 6 She (addressed stamped posted) the letter.

When we use **and**, we do not usually repeat unnecessary words.

She sings and she plays the violin.	→	She sings and plays the violin.
He plays tennis and he plays badminton.	→	He plays tennis and badminton.
They have offices in Britain and in America.	→	They have offices in Britain and America.
We stayed with my brother and my sister.	→	We stayed with my brother and sister.
The house and the garden were full of people.	→	The house and garden were full of people.
I've been to Greece and I've been to Turkey.	→	I've been to Greece and Turkey.
I washed my shirt and I dried my shirt.	→	I washed and dried my shirt.

- 2 Cross out the unnecessary words, and put in commas if necessary.
- I speak Russian, and I speak English and I speak Swahili.
 - 1 She has painted the kitchen and she has painted the living room and she has painted the dining room.
 - 2 Bob was wearing a pink shirt and Bob was wearing blue jeans and Bob was wearing white trainers.
 - 3 Can you give me a knife and can you give me a fork and can you give me a spoon, please?
 - 4 Many people speak English in India and many people speak English in Singapore and many people speak English in South Africa.
 - 5 I've written six letters and I've posted six letters this morning.

We use **or** in similar ways.

You can come with me **or** wait here. I don't speak German, French **or** Spanish.

double conjunctions both ... and; (n)either ... (n)or

We can make **and** more emphatic ('stronger') by using **both ... and**.

He's **both** a top sportsman **and** a famous writer. She **both** sings **and** dances.

We can make **or** more emphatic by using **either ... or**.

You can **either** come with me now **or** find your own way home.
 We have time to see **either** the museum **or** the cathedral, but not both.

Neither ... nor means 'not one and not the other'.

The lessons were **neither** interesting **nor** useful. He speaks **neither** English **nor** French.

- 1 Make sentences with **both ... and**, **either ... or** or **neither ... nor**.
- She speaks (Chinese Japanese).
 She speaks both Chinese and Japanese.
 - You can have (coffee / tea).
 You can have either coffee or tea.
 - I can (draw sing).
 I can neither draw nor sing.
 - 1 I think that she's (Scottish / Irish).
 - 2 I'd like to work with (animals / children).
 - 3 He did well in (mathematics history).
 - 4 This car is (fast comfortable).
 - 5 She (looked at me said anything).
 - 6 I've got problems (at home in my job).
 - 7 You can (stay here / go home).
 - 8 I like (theatre cinema).
 - 9 She speaks (English French).
 - 10 I don't understand (politics / economics).

- 2 Write some true sentences about yourself.
- 1 I can both
 - 2 I can neither
 - 3 I like both
 - 4 I don't like either
 - 5 I haven't got either
 - 6

conjunctions: more practice

1 Tenses with time conjunctions. Put in the simple present or will ...

- ▶ I ll phone you when I arrive. (phone; arrive)
- 1 I think I some tea before I to bed. (have; go)
- 2 I here until your father (wait; arrive)
- 3 When you again, Ann here. (come; be)
- 4 We sorry when Rachel back home. (be; go)
- 5 After we home I something for supper. (get; cook)
- 6 We your tickets as soon as we the money. (send; receive)
- 7 I very busy until the exams over. (be; be)
- 8 Before I to Tokyo, I some Japanese lessons. (go; take)
- 9 As soon as the rain, I shopping. (stop; go)
- 10 We breakfast after Luke (have; get up)

2 Position of conjunctions. Put these sentences together in two ways.

- ▶ The weather's good. I go fishing at weekends. (if)
If the weather's good, I go fishing at weekends.
I go fishing at weekends if the weather's good.
- 1 The teacher was ill. The children had a holiday. (because)
.....
.....
- 2 I was in China. I made a lot of friends. (when)
.....
.....
- 3 They built the new road. It was difficult to get to our village. (until)
.....
.....
- 4 Jessica wrote three letters. Dylan never answered. (although)
.....
.....
- 5 I phoned him. The work was finished. (as soon as)
.....
.....

3 Double conjunctions. Make sentences with both ... and, either ... or or neither ... nor.

- 1 I (swim + play tennis).
.....
- 2 He (lives / works) in Birmingham.
.....
- 3 My father speaks (Greek - French).
.....
- 4 She likes (pop music - jazz).
.....
- 5 You can have (orange juice / water).
.....
- 6 I can (sing - dance).
.....
- 7 He's (Scottish / Irish).
.....
- 8 He's studying (physics + biology).
.....
- 9 This sofa is (nice-looking - comfortable).
.....
- 10 Anna (looked at Henry - spoke to him).
.....


4 Grammar in a text. Put conjunctions from the box into the text.

although although and and and because because before so until when

Andy Probert was bored at school, 1 he left 2 he was sixteen 3 got a job in a travel agency. He did not stay there very long, 4 he liked the work. He decided to move 5 the pay was very low 6 the hours were too long. His next job was in an import-export company. He liked that much better 7 he travelled to America a lot 8 the work was very well paid. He worked there for three years, 9 he really understood the business; then he started his own company. Now he is doing very well, 10 the work is sometimes very hard. He says he wants to make enough money to stop working 11 he is 50.

5 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: musical instruments. Look at the table and make sure you know the names of the instruments. Then make sentences. Put the with the names of the instruments.

- ▶ (Steve, guitar, piano) Steve plays both the guitar and the piano.
- ▶ (Joanna, David, cello) Neither Joanna nor David plays the cello.
- 1 (Karl, trombone, saxophone)
- 2 (Melanie, cello, drums)
- 3 (Steve, Karen, violin)
- 4 (Joanna, Charles, guitar)
- 5 (Karen, piano, trumpet)
- 6 (Sophie, guitar, trumpet)
- 7 (Charles, Steve, saxophone)
- 8 (Sophie, Steve, trumpet)

								
Joanna	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Karl	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
David	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steve	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Melanie	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Sophie	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Karen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Charles	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓

6 Internet exercise. Use a search engine (e.g. Google). Which of the following gets most hits?

- "as soon as we will arrive" 9
- "until it will stop"
- "after they will finish"
- "before I will arrive"
- "while I will be there"
- "as soon as we arrive" 24,600
- "until it stops"
- "after they finish"
- "before I arrive"
- "while I am there"

conjunctions: revision test

1 Choose the right conjunctions and put the sentences together.

- I was tired. I went to bed. (while, so, after)
I was tired, so I went to bed.
- I'm going to do some gardening. It gets dark. (because, but, until)
- I couldn't read. It was too dark. (although, because, so)
- The food wasn't very good. He ate everything. (so, but, because)
- The lesson finished early. We went for a walk. (but, until, so)
- I got his letter. I went round to see him. (after, although, while)
- Jane gets up. She makes coffee. (as soon as, until, although)
- You can't have any more coffee. There isn't any more. (so, because, why)
- I didn't go to work. The buses weren't running. (because, although, as soon as)
- The buses weren't running. I didn't go to work. (until, so, as soon as)
- The phone always rings. I'm having a bath. (while, until, so)
- I can't tell you the decision. I know myself. (as soon as, while, until)
- He didn't work very hard. He passed all his exams. (so, but, because)
- The holiday was over. I had to start working very hard. (when, until)
- Andrew saw Zoë. He fell madly in love with her. (as soon as, until, but)
- I left school. I worked as a taxi driver. (until, after, while)

2 Correct the mistakes.

- You can either stay here either come with me. or
- He plays neither the piano nor he plays the guitar.
- Although the train was late, but I got there in time.
- The house was small, cold, dirty.
- Although it was raining, went out.
- After Jake will get here, we'll all go swimming.
- Because it was cold, so I put on a coat.
- You can either come in my car or either walk home.
- I need a knife and I need a fork.
- Although I would like to help you, but I don't have time.
- I play both classical music and I play jazz.
- I'll change my job as soon as I'll find another one.
- Will you still love me when I'll be old?