



## 6. CONJUNCTIONS

con - together    junct - join

A conjunction joins two words  
or two groups of words into a *compound*.

In "He and I laughed," *He and I* is a *compound pronoun*.

There are different kinds of conjunctions.

For example, there are seven  
**COORDINATING** conjunctions:

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

Coordinating conjunctions can join:

Two nouns: *Jane and Mark* swam.

Two pronouns: *She and I* took a walk.

Two adjectives: He was *strong and fast*.

Two verbs: We *laughed or sang*.

Two adverbs: She wrote *quickly and well*.

Two phrases: He was *on the path and in the clear*.

Two clauses: *I walked, but Sharon ran*.

Two clauses: *People laughed, so we laughed*.

Coordinating conjunctions coordinate;  
each side of the compound is equal.



There are also dozens  
of **SUBORDINATING** conjunctions.

Here are a few:

*if, as, since, when, because...*

We will discuss these more later,  
but for now, here are examples:

The mayor will speak **if** we wish him to.  
The building was built **when** the road was completed.  
**Since** he opened his shop, the baker has been busy.  
**As** the bus approached, the crowd gathered.  
The baker waved **because** he saw his friend.

Notice that in these examples,  
the subordinating conjunction sometimes  
comes at the beginning of the sentence.  
Even then, it joins two groups of words.

Also, in all of these sentences,  
one group of words makes sense by itself,  
and the other does not because the subordinating  
conjunction has subordinated it  
(made it lower in importance).

Example: "When you went to the theater..."  
does not make sense by itself.