



Coordinating conjunctions COordinate: Coordinating conjunctions join equals. They are conjunctions that coordinate [join two words or groups of words of similar (*co*) importance]. You must memorize the coordinating conjunctions because you need to know them in order to identify and punctuate compound sentences. The coordinating conjunctions are *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *so*, and *yet*. Remember to think in terms of **function**; the word *for* can be a conjunction or a preposition, depending upon how it is used. Most words can be various parts of speech, depending on what they do in the sentence.

Subordinating conjunctions SUBordinate: Subordinating conjunctions join unequals. They are conjunctions that subordinate; they join something of lesser importance to something of greater importance. There are dozens of subordinating conjunctions, but you easily can learn a starter list of them: *if*, *as*, *since*, *when*, and *because*. Subordinating conjunctions join two clauses together: *I will take a break **when** I have finished this project.* Subordinating conjunctions do not have to be between the clauses to join them; they can even join two clauses when they come at the beginning of the first clause: ***When*** *I finish this project, I will take a break.*

I am **and** you are. I am **when** you are.

Think of it this way: A coordinating conjunction co-orders what it joins, and a subordinating conjunction sub-orders what it joins. A good example is the difference between a compound sentence joined by a coordinating conjunction and a complex sentence joined by a subordinating conjunction. In “The oak tree grew, *and* the willow grew even faster,” both ideas are important, but in “The oak tree grew *when* the weather turned warm,” the second idea only helps to support the first.

Correlative conjunctions: The correlative conjunctions are the multiple-word conjunctions, such as *either/or*, *neither/nor*, and *not only/but also*. ***Either*** you ***or*** I will tell them.

Conjunctive adverbs: Conjunctive adverbs are conjunctions that act both as adverbs and as conjunctions. These include words that are commonly used to begin clauses, such as *however*, *furthermore*, *moreover*, *nevertheless*, *accordingly*, and *therefore*.



From William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, act I, scene i:

	Fair	is	foul	and	foul	is	fair.
Parts of Speech	n.	v.	adj.	conj.	n.	v.	adj.
Parts of Sentence	subj.	LVP	S.C.		subj.	LVP	S.C.
Phrases	no phrases						
Clauses	----indep. clause----			----indep. clause----			
	two independent clauses; an I.c.c.I compound declarative sentence						

Here is an extraordinary sentence, dazzling in its elegant balance. It is a mirrorlike compound—two sets of linking verb equations with the subjects and subject complements reversing, which causes each to change part of speech.

We see the coordinating conjunction *and* joining two groups of words, in this case two independent clauses, into a compound sentence. Notice how the coordinating conjunction *and* joins two equals into a perfectly balanced compound sentence.

Verbisection:

Regular or irregular: irregular
 Action, linking, or being: linking
 Tense: present
 Person: third
 Number: singular
 Mood: indicative
 Transitive or intransitive: n/a
 Voice: n/a