

Conjunctions

In grammar, a conjunction is a part of speech that connects two words, phrases, or clauses together.

The definition can also be extended to idiomatic phrases that behave as a unit with the same function as a single-word conjunction (as well as, provided that, etc.).

Types of conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions

join two items of equal syntactic importance. They are

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

referred to by the mnemonic “FANBOYS”. A comma or semicolon must be placed before the conjunction when used to join two independent clauses.

Correlative conjunctions

are pairs of conjunctions which work together to co-relate two items. For example,

both... and / either... or / not only... but / whether... or.

Subordinate conjunctions

are conjunctions that join a dependent clause to an independent clause. In English, a subordinate conjunction appears at the beginning of the subordinate clause. It will give an indication of the type of relationship between it and the main clause. For example,

after, although, if, unless, because.

A dependent clause is a clause that provides a sentence element with additional information, but which cannot stand alone as a sentence. A dependent clause can either modify an adjacent clause or serve as a component of an independent clause. Some grammarians use the term subordinate clause to refer only to adverbial dependent clauses.

The different types of dependent clauses include content clauses (noun clauses), relative (adjectival) clauses, and adverbial clauses.

An independent clause (or main clause) is a clause that can stand by itself as a simple sentence. An independent clause contains a subject and a predicate and makes sense with another word(s).

Independent clauses can be joined by using a semicolon or by using a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction (and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet, etc.).