

Conjunctions Exercises

A conjunction is a part of speech that is used to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. Conjunctions are considered to be invariable grammar particles, and they may or may not stand between items they conjoin.

A word like though and in spite of, are called linking words or conjunctions. Conjunctions like when, while, as soon as, before, until, since etc link with time.

Examples:

- Wait here until I come. (= up to the time I come)
- As soon as she'd got the message, she went home, (immediately after she'd got the message)

If unless and in case are used to express a condition.

Examples:

- We won't catch the flight unless we hurry.
- Student should carry two pens in case one of them runs out.

But, although/ even though, in spite of/despite are used to express the idea of contrast.

Examples:

- She went to school despite being unwell.
- He failed the exam even though he had done well.

Because and because of are used to show the reason for something.

So is used to express the result of something.

Examples:

- He didn't go to office because he was ill (because + statement)
- He didn't go to office because of illness, (because of + noun)
- She didn't study hard, so she failed the examination, (so + statement)

To, in order to and so that are used to express the purpose of the action.

Examples:

- We go to school to learn new things.
- They migrated to the city in order to enjoy more facilities.
- She is learning Japanese so that she can live and work in Japan.
- He wrote to his father so that he could borrow some money.

Both for and to can be used to show the purpose of a thing.

Examples:

- This knife is only for cutting vegetables, (for + gerund)
- The knife is used to cut vegetables only, (to + base form of verb)

Correlative Conjunction

These are paired conjunctions which join words, phrases or clauses which have reciprocal or complementary relationship.

The most commonly used correlative conjunctions are as follows

Either or

Neither nor

Whether or

Both and

Not only but also

Examples:

- Neither Kishor nor Meena passed the exam.
- Give me either a cup or a glass.
- Both red and yellow are attractive colours.
- I like neither tea nor coffee.
- He will be either in the room or in the hall.
- Mannu can speak not only English but also French.

Some Other Paired Conjunctions

1. And-Too: He is an actor and a performer too.
2. Such-As: Only such men as these make progress in life.
3. Too-to: He is too tired to walk.
4. So-That: He is so tired that he can't walk.
5. Although (Though)-Yet: Though he is spendthrift yet he bought an expensive watch.
6. So-As: He is not so wise as his brother is.
7. As-As: He is as close fisted as his brother.
8. As-So: As you sow so shall you reap.
9. Lest-should: Work hard lest you should fail.
10. No Sooner than: No sooner than the rain started, the street drains began to overflow.

Question 1.

Choose the correct conjunction.

- (i) I did my best to pass my English exam yet / so I failed.
- (ii) I will get my car service and/ for there is something wrong with the brakes.
- (iii) The suspect went to the airport and/yet tried to use a license that had his brother's identification on it or /but he got caught.
- (iv) Nobody expected Sam to get the job nor / so did I.
- (v) We can go to a changing restaurant or/and a Mexican, I don't really mind.

Answer:

- (i) yet

- (ii) for
- (iii) and/ but
- (iv) nor
- (v) or

Question 2.

Join the sentences using conjunctions.

- (i) She is ill. She is cheerful.
- (ii) We decided to go out. It was raining.
- (iii) The piper played. The children danced.
- (iv) James worked hard. His brother is lazy.
- (v) I went to the shop. I bought some vegetables.

Answer:

- (i) She is ill but she is cheerful.
- (ii) Though it was raining we decided to go out.
- (iii) The piper played and the children danced.
- (iv) James works hard whereas his brother is lazy.
- (v) I went to the shop and bought some vegetables.

1. Daddy Longlegs, a book by Jean Webster, is in the form of letters. Here is an extract from a letter. Cross out the wrong conjunctions and write the correct ones. The first letter of the correct conjunctions have been given as clues.

1. The farm gets more but more entertaining. I rode on hay and
2. wagon yesterday. We've oceans of little baby chickens because of a
3. ducks and turkeys but guinea fowls. You must be mad to a
4. live in a city so you can live on a farm. It is my daily business to hunt w
5. the eggs. I fell off a beam in the barn loft yesterday, either I was trying w
6. to crawl over to a nest because the black hen has stolen. t
7. Some of the farmers around here have a separator after web
8. don't care for these new-fashioned ideas. We've six calves, but I've chosen the names for all of them. a

2. Connect the following sentences using correct connector.

1. "Our old friends dropped in last Saturday. We took them out to lunch, (then, next) went shopping with them," Babita told Lata.
2. Suchitra had not heard from her cousin overseas for a long time, (finally, later) she decided to write him a letter.
3. The offenders were arrested by the police, (after, subsequently) they were imprisoned for a week.
4. (Until, After) a good night's sleep, we woke up refreshed and ready to continue our journey.

5. She would not divulge any information (until, later) she felt she could trust us.
6. She gets up early every morning, she does some Yoga exercises, (then, before) She sits down to have breakfast.
7. (After, Before) the government forces could recover from the attack, the enemy launched yet another attack.
8. To be a good teacher, (next, first) you must have a lot of patience.
9. The boys pitched their tents, (finally, then) They built a campfire.
10. "To get to my place, (until, first) take bus number 10 to the 1st terminal; (after, then) take bus number 3 which will drop you right in front of my house," Jaya explained to her friend.