

# Conjunctions

## Introduction

**Conjunctions** can join compound subjects and compound predicates as well as serve to create compound sentences.

Examples: *compound subject*—*Jerrie and Mac went on a trip.*  
*compound predicate*—*They would sail and fly.*  
*compound sentence*—*Jerrie chose Russia, and Mac chose India.*

Point out to students that whenever sentences are joined by the conjunctions *and*, *but*, and *or*, a comma usually goes before the conjunction as in the compound sentence above.

- *coordinating conjunctions (to join groups of words, including compound subjects, predicates, and sentences): and, but, or*
- *subordinating conjunctions (to join main and subordinate clauses for complex sentences): when, while, since, though, until, although, unless, whether, because*
- *relative pronouns (to join main and subordinate clauses for complex sentences): who, whom, which, that*

## Teaching Strategies

### Glue for words

Tear a piece of paper in two and show children how it can be joined with glue or sticky tape. Now write two sentences on the board. Show children how these can be joined also, but this time instead of glue or sticky tape we use a comma and a conjunction.

*I washed the dishes. Sally dried them.*

*I washed the dishes, and Sally dried them.*

*You must hurry. You will miss the train.*

*You must hurry, or you will miss the train.*

Provide children with numerous simple and informal exercises, having them suggest words suitable to join the sentences.

### After the join

Have children orally finish sentences you have written on the chalkboard.

*We laughed when ...*

*I have not seen him since ...*

*I was scared because ...*

*I will not help you unless ...*

# Conjunctions *(cont.)*

## Use the conjunction

Provide children with exercises in which they use a given conjunction to join pairs of sentences.

Use a comma and *but*.

*Mike is tall. Tom is short.      Mike is tall, but Tom is short.*

*A fire is hot. Ice is cold.      A fire is hot, but ice is cold.*

## Choose the conjunction

Provide a list of conjunctions on the chalkboard and have children finish sentences by using each one.

*because    and    before*

*I cleaned my teeth \_\_\_\_\_ I went to bed.*

*We did not go \_\_\_\_\_ it was raining.*

*Tom grabbed the apple, \_\_\_\_\_ he ate it.*

## Conjunction search

Conduct a conjunction search from a common text, such as a photocopy of a story or poem already read. Have children read the text and circle any conjunctions they find.

## Which conjunction?

Have children orally suggest suitable conjunctions for sentences which you read out loud.

*I cannot come. My leg is sore. (if, because ...)*

## In the beginning

Remind students that a conjunction need not necessarily come in the middle to join two sentences. Provide exercises encouraging children to begin the sentence with the conjunction.

*He did not come. He is ill.*

*He did not come because he is ill.*

*Because he is ill, he did not come.*

# Conjunctions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Conjunctions are joining words. They are used to join words and whole sentences.**

1. Choose a word from the box to complete each sentence.

because      when      until      unless      and      if

- a. We must wait here \_\_\_\_\_ our parents arrive.
- b. The baby began to cry \_\_\_\_\_ the little boy pinched him.
- c. The thief stole the money \_\_\_\_\_ he wanted to buy a motorbike.
- d. The fish will not bite \_\_\_\_\_ you keep making all that noise.
- e. I dug up the soil, \_\_\_\_\_ Sally raked it over.
- f. You will not get on the team \_\_\_\_\_ you practice much harder.

2. Make up as many sentences as you can by combining the groups of words in the boxes. If you need more space, write your sentences on the back of the sheet.

Sally cried Sally didn't come Mike laughed Tom yelled	because although when until	her parents said it would be alright. he missed the bus. she was not feeling well. the bus broke down.
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# Conjunctions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grammar BLM

55

**Conjunctions are joining words. They are used to join words and whole sentences.**

On the first line, join the sentences by using a conjunction in the middle. On the second line, join the sentences by using a conjunction at the beginning.

a. We had a bath. We arrived home.

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b. We ate a sandwich. It was lunchtime.

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c. She did not come. She was grounded by her parents.

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d. We still felt cold. We lit a fire.

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e. Freya washed her hands. She ate her lunch.

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f. The train was late. We still arrived on time.

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g. Susan locked the doors. She left the house.

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# Answer Key *(cont.)*

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through  
down  
to  
towards  
off  
into

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1.

her  
They  
He  
her  
her  
she  
she  
they

2. *red boxes*

I	they
we	them
me	him
us	her
you	it
he	them
she	your
it	their

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1.

- them
- him
- me
- you
- she
- they

2.

- she/he
- him
- her
- we

page 78

1.

- mine
- hers
- ours

- theirs
- yours

2.

- that
- who
- whose
- which
- who
- whose

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- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| a. I  | f. I  |
| b. me | g. I  |
| c. me | h. me |
| d. me | i. I  |
| e. I  | j. me |

page 80

1.

I	her
I	She
their	we
They	it
they	it
We	her
we	who
them	

2. (Answers will vary.)

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1.

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| a. until   | d. if     |
| b. when    | e. and    |
| c. because | f. unless |

2. (Answers will vary.)

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(Answers will vary.)

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1. (Answers may vary.)

- because
- and
- before
- when

2.

- John could not lift the box because it was too heavy.

- We will have brush fires if it is a hot summer.
- I have not heard from him since I told him to go home.
- We won the match although our best players were unable to play.

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1., 2. (Answers will vary.)

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1., 2. (Answers will vary.)

page 92

1.

- The cat jumped the fence.
- A clock tells us the time.
- A bicycle has two wheels.
- A donkey has four legs.
- Freya likes to read books.

2.

- The cat has caught a mouse.
- The teacher told us a story.
- Ned found a purse in the street.
- The small girl ran into the house.

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1.

- like
- Will leave
- Take
- has
- bought
- had

2. (Answers will vary.)

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(Answers will vary.)

page 95

1.

- The rooster crowed loudly at six o'clock.
- Mike was riding his new bicycle.
- A banana is yellow when it is ripe.
- A key is used to open and lock doors.