

# Together Forever: Using Conjunctions

**What is a conjunction?** A conjunction is a bridge that connects words, phrases, and clauses. The most common conjunction is the word “and.” There are **three types** of conjunctions: coordinating, subordinating, and correlating.

## Coordinating Conjunctions

**Coordinating conjunctions** join two words, phrases, or sentences of equal weight (i.e. neither is more important than the other, grammatically speaking). It is easy to remember the coordinating conjunctions if you remember the acronym FANBOYS:

F—for  
A—and  
N—nor  
B—but  
O—or  
Y—yet  
S—so

If you use a coordinating conjunction as a bridge between **words or phrases**, you generally do not need a comma (unless it is a list of three or more items). If you use a coordinating conjunction as a bridge between **independent clauses**, you should include a comma.

### ***Example***

He brushes his teeth with mud and seaweed.  
The man’s breath is smelly, but his clothes are immaculate.

## Subordinating Conjunctions

The second kind of conjunction is the **subordinating conjunction**. Subordinating conjunctions show that one element in a sentence is subordinating (or less important, grammatically speaking) than another. Examples include: When adding a clause with a subordinating conjunction in front of an independent clause, you must place a comma between the two. However, you do not need a comma if you are adding the subordinate clause to the end of a sentence.

After	Before	How	Than	Until	Whether	Whenever
Although	If	Since	That	Where	While	
As	In order that	So that	Though	Whereas	Even though	
Because	No matter	Supposing	Unless	Wherever	Which	

### ***Examples***

After the storm ended, the couple saw the tree on their roof  
The couple saw the tree on their roof after the storm ended.

## Correlating Conjunctions

When using correlating conjunctions, it is important that the words or phrases on either side are grammatically parallel. In other words, you would not want to use a noun phrase with a verb phrase, like “not only a good guy but caring for others.” Some examples of correlating conjunctions include:

Both/and  
Either/or

Neither/nor  
Not/but

Not only/but also

### ***Examples***

**Both** Igor **and** Quasimodo have irregular postures.

**Neither** a borrower **nor** a lender be.

She is **not** a sinner **but** a saint.

