

SECTION 16 conjunctions

● grammar summary

after although and as soon as because before but so until when while
both ... and either ... or neither ... nor (→ For if, see Section 17.)
(If necessary, use a dictionary to check the meanings of these conjunctions.)

We use **conjunctions** to join sentences together.

*I went to Germany **because** Emma was there. We went home **after** the concert finished.*

Some conjunctions (and the words that follow them) can go in **two places**.

*I cleaned my room **before** I went out. **Before** I went out, I cleaned my room.*

We use **present tenses** to talk about the **future** with **time-conjunctions**.

*I'll phone you **when** I arrive. Let's wait here **until** somebody comes.*

We can use **and** to join sentences, shorter expressions or single words. We **don't** need to repeat **unnecessary words** with **and**.

*I went downstairs **and** (I) opened the door. I've got friends in Canada **and** (in) Australia.*

*Could I have a knife **and** (a) fork?*

● pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 284.

1 Correct (✓) or not (X)?

► We started without her because of she was late. X

1 Although it was raining, I went out. ...

2 I went to London soon after I got to England. ...

3 After Jake will get here, we'll all go out. ...

4 Will you still love me when I'm old? ...

5 Because it was cold, so I put on a coat. ...

6 I got the job in spite of my English was bad. ...

7 You are beautiful, intelligent, kind. ...

8 You can either come in my car or walk home. ...

9 I need a knife and I need a fork. ...

● We stayed in. ● **because** ● it was raining. ●

After ● she got married, ●
● she changed her job. ●

● Ann phoned ● **when** ● you were out. ●

● I won't be happy ● **until** ● I leave school. ●

conjunctions: introduction *and, but, because ...*

Conjunctions are words like *and, but, because, although, if, while, so, until*.
We use conjunctions to **join sentences together**.

It was cold **and** I wanted to go home.
I like him **but** I don't like her.
He got up **although** he was ill.
I didn't buy it **because** it was too expensive.
I'll phone you **if** the train is late.
Andrew called **while** you were out.
It was raining **so** I took my umbrella.
I waited **until** Mary was ready.
Let's go out **as soon as** Peter arrives.

① Circle the best conjunction.

- I'll phone you *although / so / (when) I arrive.*
- 1 The party was boring, *although / because / so* I went home.
 - 2 The weather was nice, *although / or / until* it was a bit cold.
 - 3 She speaks good French, *after / because / but* she has a strong English accent.
 - 4 I enjoyed my month in Argentina, *although / and / but* I learnt a lot of Spanish.
 - 5 I'll tell you my plans *because / so / while* we're having lunch.
 - 6 I helped him *after / because / or* he was a good friend.

② Choose the best conjunction to join the sentences. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- I lived in Liverpool. I left school. (*if, although, until*)
I lived in Liverpool until I left school......
- 1 I'll be glad. This job is finished. (*when, or, while*)
.....
 - 2 I'll be very angry. You do that again. (*and, if, but*)
.....
 - 3 I'd like to talk to you. You go home. (*before, and, although*)
.....
 - 4 I watched TV. John came home. (*if, until, or*)
.....
 - 5 I'll see you again. We come back from holiday. (*while, after, and*)
.....

③ Put conjunctions from the box into the text.

although although and and and because because before so until when

Andy Probert was bored at school, 1 he left 2 he was sixteen
3 got a job in a travel agency. He did not stay there very long, 4 he liked
the work. He decided to move 5 the pay was very low 6 the hours were
too long. His next job was in an import-export company. He liked that much better, 7
he travelled to America a lot 8 the work was very well paid. He worked there for three
years, 9 he really understood the business; then he started his own company. Now he
is doing very well, 10 the work is sometimes very hard. He says he wants to make
enough money to stop working 11 he is 50.

position of conjunctions *If you need help, ask me.*

When we use **conjunctions**, there are often **two possibilities**.

- 1 **Start** with the conjunction
(and the part that follows it).

CONJUNCTION bbbbbb, aaaaa

IF you need help, please ask me.

WHEN you are in London, phone us.

ALTHOUGH it was raining, I went out.

AS SOON AS she could, she went to bed.

- 2 Put the conjunction **between** the
two parts of the sentence.

Aaaaa, CONJUNCTION bbbbbb

Please ask me IF you need help.

Phone us WHEN you are in London.

I went out, ALTHOUGH it was raining hard.

She went to bed AS SOON AS she could.

Note that we often put **commas (,)** in sentences with conjunctions, especially in longer sentences.
We **usually** use a **comma** if we **start** with the conjunction.

① Put these sentences together in two ways.

- I enjoyed the film. The beginning was boring. (*although*)

I enjoyed the film, although the beginning was boring.

Although the beginning was boring, I enjoyed the film.

- 1 I put on two sweaters. It was very cold. (*because*)

- 2 I'm going to work in Australia. I leave school. (*when*)

- 3 I go and see Felix. I want to talk to somebody. (*if*)

- 4 Ann made coffee. Bill fried some eggs. (*while*)

- 5 I was interested in the conversation. I didn't understand everything. (*although*)

- 6 We went to a restaurant. There was no food in the house. (*because*)

- 7 We'll have a big party. John comes home. (*when*)

- 8 I stayed with friends. My parents were travelling. (*while*)

- 9 I go for long walks at the weekend. The weather's fine. (*if*)

- 10 Come and see us. You arrive in Scotland. (*as soon as*)

before and after I talked to John before I phoned Peter.

Note how we use *before* and *after*.

(1) A HAPPENED, THEN (2) B HAPPENED.

A happened before B happened. OR Before B happened, A happened.

After A happened, B happened. OR B happened after A happened.

I talked to John before I phoned Peter. Before I phoned Peter, I talked to John.

(Both sentences say that I talked to John first.)

Ann moved to York after she got married. After Ann got married, she moved to York.

(Both sentences say that Ann got married first.)

1 Put these sentences together in two ways with *before* or *after*.

► (1) I have tea. (2) I go to bed. (*before*)

I have tea before I go to bed. Before I go to bed, I have tea.

1 (1) We get back from holiday. (2) There's always a lot of work. (*after*)

2 (1) I usually clean the house. (2) My mother comes to visit. (*before*)

3 (1) I listen to music for half an hour. (2) I start work. (*before*)

4 (1) I left school. (2) I got very ill. (*after*)

5 (1) I stopped playing football. (2) I started playing hockey. (*after*)

6 (1) We moved to London. (2) We got married. (*before*)

2 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: wars

Make sure you know the words in the box; then read the sentences and put in 1 and 2 to show what happened first.

ally	army	attack	battle	declare war (on)	defeat	general	invade
------	------	--------	--------	------------------	--------	---------	--------

► The Moronians prepared for war (2.) after Fantasia invaded Kayland (1.).

1 Before the Moronians declared war on Fantasia (...), the Moronian President went to Fantasia (...) for talks with General Zunk.

2 After the President returned from Fantasia (...), Moronia declared war on Fantasia (...).

3 The Fantasian army invaded Zedland (...) soon after Moronia declared war on Fantasia (...).

4 Before Moronia attacked Fantasia (...), the Moronians defeated Fantasia's ally Beeland (...).

5 Zunk flew to Ruritania (...) after Moronia defeated Fantasia at the battle of Quark (...).

→ For *-ing* forms with *before* and *after*, see page 133.

tenses with time conjunctions *I'll see you before you go.*

We use the **simple present** with a **future** meaning after **before, after, while, until, when** and **as soon as**.
I'll see you before you go. (NOT ... ~~before you will go~~.) *We'll talk about it after I get back.*
You can use my car while I'm in Ireland. *Don't move until I tell you.*
He'll phone you when he arrives. (NOT ... ~~when he will arrive~~.)
We'll start the party as soon as Justin gets here.

1 Put in verbs from the box. Use the simple present.

hear leave make open ✓ write

- ▷ Wait here until Jane *opens* the door.
1 Call me as soon as you about the exam.
2 Can you hold the baby while I coffee?
3 What's John going to do when he school?
4 Give my love to Sue when you to her.

2 Put in verbs from the box (simple present or will).

find give ✓ help start travel

- ▷ I'll *give* you my address before I say goodbye.
1 Ann's going to live here until she a job.
2 We're going to look after Sue's flat while she round America.
3 I you after I get back from work.
4 We're early - we've got half an hour before the lesson

3 Look at Bill and Ann's summer dates and complete the conversation.

BILL AND ANN'S SUMMER DATES

The children will get out of school at midday on July 8th.
Bill's brother will be in England from July 12th to July 14th.
Bill and Ann's new car will be ready on July 17th.
Eric will go back to work on July 20th.
Ann's father will go into hospital on July 25th.

- BILL: Let's go to Eric's from the 4th to the 30th.
ANN: No, we can't leave until the 8th. The children, remember?
BILL: OK. We'll leave (*at midday on the 8th*) as soon as the children 1 out of school.
ANN: That won't work, because we'll have to be here (*from the 12th to the 14th*)
while 2
BILL: Then we'll go from the 15th to the 30th.
ANN: No, we'll have to be back (*before the 25th*) before 3
BILL: OK. The 15th to the 24th it is.
ANN: Well, in that case, let's wait (*until the 17th*) until 4
BILL: The 17th to the 24th. Right.
ANN: But we can't stay with Eric (*after the 20th*) after 5
BILL: Fine. The 17th to the 20th.
ANN: No, because ...

→ For tenses with *if* see page 229.

because and so; although and but

We can say **why** things happen with *because* or *so* (but not both).

Because Sue was tired, she went to bed. / Sue went to bed because she was tired.

OR *Sue was tired, so she went to bed. (BUT NOT ~~Because Sue was tired, so she went to bed.~~)*

We usually put a comma (,) before *so*. For more about commas with conjunctions, see page 219.

1 Join the sentences with *because* (twice) and with *so*.

- He passed the exam. He had a good teacher.

Because he had a good teacher, he passed the exam.

He passed the exam because he had a good teacher.

He had a good teacher, so he passed the exam.

- 1 I changed my hotel. The rooms were dirty.

- 2 The taxi was late. We missed the train.

- 3 I didn't like the film. I walked out of the cinema.

We can say that things are **not** as we expect with *although* or *but* (but not both).

Although Pete was tired, he didn't go to bed. / Pete didn't go to bed, although he was tired.

OR *Pete was tired, but he didn't go to bed. (BUT NOT ~~Although Pete was tired, but he didn't go to bed.~~)*

We usually put commas before *although* and *but*.

2 Join the sentences with *although* (twice) and with *but*.

- She passed the exam. She had a bad teacher.

Although she had a bad teacher, she passed the exam.

She passed the exam, although she had a bad teacher.

She had a bad teacher, but she passed the exam.

- 1 I felt ill. I went on working.

- 2 She was very kind. I didn't like her.

- 3 He's a big man. He doesn't eat much.

Because (conjunction) and *because of* (preposition) are different.

We stayed in because it was raining. *We stayed in because of the rain.*

He was able to go to university because his uncle helped him / because of his uncle's help.

Although (conjunction) and *in spite of* (preposition) are different.

We went out, although it was raining. *We went out in spite of the rain.*

I got the job, although my English was bad / in spite of my bad English.

3 Join the beginnings and ends.

1 Although I knew her well,	A a problem at the airport. ...
2 Although it was cold,	B but he went out without a coat. ...
3 Ann arrived late because of	C he went out without a coat. ...
4 Ann only arrived at 11 o'clock because	D her plane was late. ...
5 It was very cold,	E she never talked to me about her problems. ...
6 Because I was an old friend,	F so he asked me to help him. ...
7 We were old friends,	G the bad pay and conditions. ...
8 She stayed in the company, although	H she asked me to help her. ...
9 She went on working there in spite of	I the pay and conditions were bad. ...

4 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: related nouns, verbs and adjectives

The words in the boxes are all nouns. Make sure you know them. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then change the sentences.

heat hunger illness ✓ rain snow ✓ unhappiness

► We drove slowly because it was snowing.

~~We drove slowly because of the snow.~~

► She went on working, although she was ill.

~~She went on working in spite of her illness.~~

1 Because I was unhappy, I didn't want to see anybody.

Because of my

2 Although she was hungry, she didn't eat anything.

.....

3 We had to drink a lot because it was hot.

.....

4 We had to stop playing because it was raining.

.....

cold interest (in something) thirst tiredness work

5 She kept all the windows open, although it was cold.

.....

6 I couldn't go away last weekend because I was working.

.....

7 Although he was interested in the lesson, he went to sleep.

.....

8 I couldn't understand her because I was tired.

.....

9 Although I was thirsty, I didn't drink anything.

.....

and I speak Russian, English and Swahili.

We can use **and** to join sentences, shorter expressions or single words.

Sylvia won the first game **and** Pete won the second.

'What's she interested in?' 'Scottish dancing **and** mountain climbing.'

'What shall we have for supper?' 'Fish **and** chips.'

In lists, we usually put **and** between the last two things, and commas (,) between the others.

We need soap, bread, orange juice, tomatoes **and** sugar.

She was beautiful, intelligent **and** kind. (NOT ... beautiful, intelligent, kind.)

1 Write the sentences using **and** and commas.

▷ She speaks (French German Japanese Arabic).

~~She speaks French, German, Japanese and Arabic.~~

1 My company has offices in (London Tokyo New York Cairo).

2 I've invited (Paul Alexandra Eric Luke Janet).

3 I'll be here on (Tuesday Thursday Friday Sunday).

4 She's got (five cats two dogs a horse a rabbit).

5 He plays (golf rugby hockey badminton).

6 She (addressed stamped posted) the letter.

When we use **and**, we do **not** usually repeat unnecessary words.

She sings **and** she plays the violin.

→ She sings **and** plays the violin.

He plays tennis **and** he plays badminton.

→ He plays tennis **and** badminton.

They have offices in Britain **and** in America.

→ They have offices in Britain **and** America.

We stayed with my brother **and** my sister.

→ We stayed with my brother **and** sister.

The house **and** the garden were full of people.

→ The house **and** garden were full of people.

I've been to Greece **and** I've been to Turkey.

→ I've been to Greece **and** Turkey.

I washed my shirt **and** I dried my shirt.

→ I washed **and** dried my shirt.

2 Cross out the unnecessary words, and put in commas if necessary.

▷ I speak Russian, ~~and~~ I speak English and I speak Swahili.

1 She has painted the kitchen **and** she has painted the living room **and** she has painted the dining room.

2 Bob was wearing a pink shirt **and** Bob was wearing blue jeans **and** Bob was wearing white trainers.

3 Can you give me a knife **and** can you give me a fork **and** can you give me a spoon, please?

4 Many people speak English in India **and** many people speak English in Singapore **and** many people speak English in South Africa.

5 I've written six letters **and** I've posted six letters this morning.

We use **or** in similar ways.

You can come with me **or** wait here.

I don't speak German, French **or** Spanish.

double conjunctions both ... and; (n)either ... (n)or

We can make *and* more emphatic ('stronger') by using **both ... and**.

He's **both** a top sportsman **and** a famous writer. She **both** sings **and** dances.

We can make *or* more emphatic by using **either ... or**.

You can **either** come with me now **or** find your own way home.

We have time to see **either** the museum **or** the cathedral, but not both.

Neither ... nor means 'not one and not the other'.

The lessons were **neither** interesting **nor** useful. He speaks **neither** English **nor** French.

① Make sentences with **both ... and**, **either ... or** or **neither ... nor**.

- She speaks (Chinese Japanese)

She speaks **both** Chinese **and** Japanese.

- You can have (coffee / tea)

You can have **either** coffee **or** tea.

- I can (draw sing)

I can **neither** draw **nor** sing.

- 1 I think that she's (Scottish / Irish)

- 2 I'd like to work with (animals / children)

- 3 He did well in (mathematics history)

- 4 This car is (fast comfortable)

- 5 She (looked at me said anything)

- 6 I've got problems (at home in my job)

② GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: musical instruments

Look at the table and make sure you know the names of the instruments. Then make sentences. Put *the* with the names of the instruments.

- (Steve, trumpet, violin) ...Steve plays **both** the trumpet **and** the violin.

- (Joanna, David, trombone) ...Neither Joanna **nor** David plays the flute.

- 1 (Karl, trombone, saxophone)

- 2 (Melanie, cello, drums)

- 3 (Steve, Karen, violin)

- 4 (Joanna, Charles, guitar)

- 5 (Karen, piano, trumpet)

- 6 (Sophie, guitar, trumpet)

- 7 (Charles, Steve, saxophone)

- 8 (Sophie, Steve, trumpet)

	cello	drums	trombone	guitar	piano	saxophone	trumpet	violin
Joanna	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Karl	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
David	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Steve	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Melanie	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Sophie	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Karen	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
Charles	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗

test yourself conjunctions

① Put in the correct tenses (simple present or will).

- ▷ I'll phone you when I arrive (phone; arrive)
- I think I some tea before I to bed. (have; go)
 - I here until your train (wait; come)
 - When you again, Ann here. (come; be)
 - We sorry when Anne back home. (be; go)

② Complete the sentences with words from the box. You don't need to use all the words.

although	because	but	so	until	when	while
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- she spoke very fast, I understood nearly everything.
- I couldn't read it was too dark.
- The food wasn't very good, he ate everything.
- The lesson finished early, we went for a walk.
- I got his letter I went round to see him.

③ Use the conjunctions to put these sentences together in two ways.

- ▷ The weather's good. I go fishing at weekends. (if)
If the weather's good, I go fishing at weekends.
I go fishing at weekends if the weather's good.
- The teacher was ill. The children had a holiday. (because)

 - I was in China. I made a lot of friends. (when)

 - They built the new road. It was difficult to get to our village. (until)

④ Circle the correct answers.

- I had a drink with Andrew *before* / *after* he left.
- Before* / *After* I took my examinations, I studied very hard.
- Lucy went out with her friends *although* / *in spite of* she wasn't feeling well.
- I went into the house *although* / *in spite of* there was nobody there.
- Although* / *In spite of* the rain, the streets were full of people.
- Because* / *Because of* the bad weather, we couldn't play the match.
- I couldn't understand them *because* / *because of* their accent.

⑤ Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

- You can either stay here or come with me. ...
- He plays neither the piano nor he plays the guitar. ...
- Carol went on working in spite of her illness. ...
- Although the train was late, but I got there in time. ...
- The house was small, cold, dirty. ...
- The table and chair were very dirty. ...