
Conjunctions

Conjunction

Conjunctions are joining words. They are used to join two or more words, phrases, clauses or sentences.

E.g.

Rohit and Amit are my friends.

I like ice cream but I can't eat it now as I have a sore throat.

Common conjunctions:

1. And - Or

And is used when we imply both or all. E.g. Rohit and Amit are my friends.(Both are my friends)

Or is used when we imply one of the two choices. E.g. Rohit or Amit will be selected to represent the school.
(only one of them and not both)

2. **Either/Or** - Again this is used to imply one of the two choices.

3. **Neither/Nor** - It means none of the two choices.

4. **But** - But is used to show sharp contrasts in the two words/sentences being joined.
e.g. He is intelligent but lazy.

5. **Yet** - Yet is also used to show sharp contrasts. Think it like a replacement for but-still (He prepared hard but still he lost the match). It is more appropriate to use Yet when there are 2 contrasting statements and because of the first statement, one should not be able to do as mentioned in the second statement. E.g. He has been learning swimming for 6 months so he should know swimming by now, but still he does not know swimming.

E.g. He has been attending swimming classes for past 6 months yet he does not how to swim.

Yet can be replaced by but in almost all cases. However but cannot be replaced by yet in all cases.

E.g.

Incorrect: He is intelligent yet lazy.

Correct: He is intelligent but lazy.

6. **As, Because, Since** - As, because and since can be used interchangeably. These words are used to mention the reason for something.

I could not come to school yesterday as I was ill.

I could not come to school yesterday because I was ill.

I could not come to school yesterday since I was ill.

7. So, therefore, thus and hence - These words can also be used interchangeably. These words are used to mention the consequence of something.

I was ill so I could not come to school.

I was ill therefore I could not come to school.

8. Because of, due to - These conjunctions are used to present reason for an action in the clause itself.

E.g. I could not come to school because of illness.

9. Although, Inspite of, Despite - are used to show contrasts.

Although is succeeded by a subject and a verb.

E.g. Although he was ill, he came to school.

Inspite of and Despite - After **inspite of** or **despite** a noun or pronoun is used.

He came to school inspite of his illness.

He came to school despite illness.

Common mistake - sometimes we use "despite of" which is not correct. We should either use "inspite of" or "despite".