

Conjunctions

A **conjunction** is a word used to join words or groups of words. Different kinds of conjunctions do different jobs.

Coordinating conjunctions connect words or groups of words used in the same way. The words joined may be used as subjects, objects, predicates, or any other kind of sentence parts. Some common coordinating conjunctions are *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *so*, and *yet*. Use *and* to connect similar things or ideas. Use *but* to contrast things or ideas.

For the rich, life in ancient China was elegant and easy.

Rich people at that time lived well, but they didn't live as long as modern people.

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that connect words or groups of words used in the same way. Common correlative conjunctions are *both . . . and*, *either . . . or*, *neither . . . nor*, *not only . . . but also*, and *whether . . . or*.

Both servants and masters may have lived on the palace grounds.

Identifying Conjunctions

Underline all the conjunctions in the following sentences. Remember that there are two parts to a correlative conjunction.

1. Suppose you traveled back in time and landed in China around 100 B.C.
2. You would see houses made of wood and painted with lacquer.
3. Some houses have two stories and are topped with a watchtower to use as a lookout for spotting enemies.
4. The people are at peace right now, but who knows what the future holds?
5. The rich people live close to others, yet they live in a grander style.
6. For example, they wear fine silk shoes, socks, and robes.
7. Their palaces are filled with paintings and bronze ornaments.
8. Their palace grounds contain not only gardens but also ponds.
9. If you visited, you would want to go into a palace, for you would find it lovely.
10. When people got sick at that time, they were given medicines such as cinnamon and ground magnolia bark.
11. Neither wealth nor power keeps anyone from dying, however.
12. When rich people died, their tombs were filled with beautiful and costly possessions.
13. The dead could not use these items, but they were buried with them anyway.
14. For example, a tomb might hold a woman's cosmetics and her clothes.
15. Some rich people were buried with either a real servant or with a clay servant.
16. The customs may seem strange, but most people were happy with the way they lived.

Conjunctions

More Practice

A. Identifying Conjunctions

In the following sentences, underline the conjunctions.

1. Suppose you traveled in time back to Rome in 20 B.C., and you came to the house of a senator.
2. The house is on a busy street, but it is quiet and peaceful inside.
3. Many of the rooms front on an atrium, an open area that is used for relaxing and greeting visitors.
4. It is long ago, yet the house has a central heating system.
5. Rooms are decorated with either paintings or statues.
6. Not only rich people but also their servants live in the large house.
7. The floors are made of marble, and they are beautiful and strong.
8. The senator and his sons are well educated.
9. Usually, boys, but not girls, are tutored or attend school.
10. The senator's family has a lifestyle that is elegant but normal for its place, time, and position.

B. Using Conjunctions

Complete each of the following sentences with a coordinating conjunction or a correlative conjunction.

EXAMPLE The job was hard, but it was also rewarding.

1. Lewis _____ Clark explored the West, _____ their story is fascinating.
2. I've never met Ms. Phelps _____ Mr. Olson, but I've heard about them.
3. We looked for a bus or a cab, _____ we ended up walking home.
4. I would like a sandwich _____ a glass of milk for lunch.
5. _____ children _____ adults enjoy the circus.
6. _____ you have the wrong phone number _____ you misdialed.
7. If _____ you _____ your brother wants to come, just let us know.
8. Deeane turned the light on _____ she could see where she was walking.
9. _____ we go _____ stay is up to you.
10. The speakers are small, _____ they have a big sound.

**Lesson
3**

Conjunctions

Application

A. Proofreading

Proofread the following paragraph, adding appropriate conjunctions where they are needed.

Pioneer life in America during the 18th century was rough _____ simple. The log cabins pioneers built weren't particularly pretty, _____ they did the job of keeping people warm and dry. When the members of a pioneer family first reached their land, their first job was planting the garden _____ they would have something to eat when winter came. Their next job was to build a house. Many families got together to put up a house, _____ that get-together was called a *house-raising*. The men would cut the logs _____ lift them into place. _____ the men _____ the women and children helped build the house. After the walls were up, they pushed clay, moss, _____ mud between the logs. _____ the family would be warm and dry _____ uncomfortable during the winter depended upon how well each person did his _____ her job. The finished cabin had _____ floor _____ windows, but it was better than living in a tent.

B. Writing with Conjunctions

On the lines below, write a description of your home for someone who has never seen it. In your description, use at least two different coordinating conjunctions and two correlative conjunctions. Write the conjunctions on the correct lines below.

Coordinating Conjunctions

Correlative Conjunctions
