

Gluing Words: Coordinating and Subordinating Conjunctions

PART A

Conjunctions are like glue. They are the connecting pieces that combine two thoughts in a sentence. The bigger pieces in the sentence are *clauses*, a group of words that is a complete thought. A complete thought (or sentence) has a subject and a predicate. That means you can identify a “who/what” and a “what about it?”

We **listened to Bruno Mars’ new album on my phone.**



Subject

(WHO/WHAT)



Predicate

(WHAT ABOUT IT?)

Circle the subject and underline the predicate in the clauses below.

Then add a few examples of some of your own.

Juan bought a new computer
Juan still has his old computer
My new shoes get dirty
I wash my shoes in the sink
After the rain stopped
I went to the skateboard park

PART B

Now let's combine clauses using conjunctions for glue. There are three kinds of conjunctions but the two most common are coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. Those sound like fancy words, but really they have simple meanings.

Coordinating Conjunctions allow you to combine two related and independent sentences.

There are seven coordinating conjunctions: and, but, for, nor, or, so, and yet.

I lost my dog + I got a new cat = I lost my dog, and I got a new cat.

Subordinating Conjunctions also allow you to combine two clauses in the case where one of them depends on the other for its meaning. The one that depends on the other is a dependent clause; it just provides added information about the other thought. The subordinating conjunction glues the two ideas together by indicating place, time, or cause and effect. **Some common examples are: after, although, as, because, since, than, until, unless, whenever, and while.**

I got a new cat **because** I lost my cat.

Combine the clauses in Part A to make new sentences using coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.

New sentences using **coordinating conjunctions**:

(Punctuation Tip: Add a comma before the conjunction)

New sentences using **subordinating conjunctions**:

(Punctuation Tip: If the dependent clause comes first, use a comma to separate the clauses)