

English Language Resource Center, C-212

Free tutoring in writing, speaking, reading & grammar for BCC students who speak English as a second language

Connecting Words

There are three different kinds of connecting words:

- 1. Coordinating Conjunctions
- 2. Subordinating Conjunctions
- 3. Conjunctive adverbs (Transition words)

Coordinating Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions join two independent clauses.

Categories:

ADDITION: and
 DIFFERENCE: but
 RESULT: so

Punctuation Pattern:

 $\{S+V (+O), conjunction +S+V (+O)\}$

Example: It was raining, so the game was cancelled.

Subordinating Conjunctions

There are five different categories of subordinating conjunctions:

- 1. TIME: after, before, when, while, as, by the time (that), since, until, as soon as, once, as/so long as, whenever, every time (that), the first time (that), the last time (that), the next time (that)
- 2. CAUSE & EFFECT: because, since, now that, as, as/so long as, inasmuch as, so (that), in order that
- 3. OPPOSITION: even though, although, though, whereas, while
- 4. LOCATION: where, wherever
- 5. CONDITION: if, unless, only if, whether or not, even if, providing (that), provided (that), in case (that), in the event (that)

Punctuation Patterns:

Clauses with subordinating conjunctions can appear at the beginning or the end of the sentence. However, the punctuation patterns are different.

1. If the adverb clause appears first, use the following punctuation pattern: {Subordinating Conjunction + S+V (+O), S+V+(+O).

Example: After we finished dinner, we went for a walk.

Adverb clause main clause



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2. If the adverb clause appears at the end of the sentence, don't use a comma between clauses:

{S+V (+O)+Subordinating Conjunction +S+V (+O)} Example: We went for a walk *after we finished dinner*. Main clause *adverb clause*

3. Exception: Clauses of opposition with whereas and while always take commas, no matter where they appear in the sentence.

Example: Florida is hot, whereas Alaska is cold.

Main clause adverb clause

Whereas Alaska is cold, Florida is hot. Adverb clause main clause

Conjunctive Adverbs (Transitions)

Conjunctive Adverbs (which are more commonly known as transitions) provide a connection between ideas. Unlike subordinating conjunctions, they do not make clauses dependent.

- 1. ADDITION: also, besides, equally, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, next, too.
- 2. SIMILARITY: also, likewise, moreover
- 3. DIFFERENCE: however, on the contrary, on the other hand, in contrast, nevertheless
- 4. EXAMPLES: for example, for instance, in fact
- 5. RESTATEMENTS/SUMMARIES: finally, in brief, in conclusion, in other words, in short, in summary, therefore
- 6. RESULT: accordingly, as a result, consequently, for this reason, therefore
- 7. CHRONOLOGY (TIME ORDER): afterward, in the meantime, later, meanwhile, next, second, earlier, finally, first, soon, still, then, third

Punctuation Patterns:

There are three possible punctuation patterns.

1. Most common pattern: {Transition, S+V (+O).}

Example: Many of New Jersey's highways are very crowded. *For example,* Route 80 has bumper-to-bumper traffic every day.

2. Another possible pattern:

{S+V (+O); transition, S+V (+O).)

Example: Many of New Jersey's highways are very crowded; for example, Route 80 has bumper-to-bumper traffic every day.



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3. Less common pattern: {S, transition, V (+O)}

Example: Many of New Jersey's highways are very crowded. Route 80, for example, has bumper-to-bumper traffic every day.

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Some Grammatical Information taken from:

Azar, Betty Schrampfer. <u>Fundamentals of English Grammar.</u> 2nd ed. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice, 1992.

Elbaum, Sandra N. Grammar in Context: Book One. Harper, 1986.

Hayes, Christopher G. English at Hand. Marlton: Townsend, 1996.