

## FOUNDATIONAL GRAMMAR

### LESSON EIGHT: CONJUNCTIONS (Coordinating & Correlative)

We have so far learned 7 parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, interjections, adverbs, and prepositions.

We are now going to learn about the final part of speech: **conjunctions**

There are eight parts of speech in total.

#### **Conjunctions**

A conjunction joins words, or groups of words, together. We will learn about the first two types this week and the final kind next week.

The conjunctions below are printed in boldface type; the words or groups of words that the conjunctions join are italicized.

Eg:

The bear *turned* **and** *lumbered* off into the woods.

We can use a *pickup truck* **or** a *jeep*.

She helped **both** *Carrie* **and** *me* with our applications.

*The doctor will call back* **for** he must tell us his diagnosis!

#### **The two conjunctions we are learning today are**

*Coordinating* conjunctions

*Correlative* conjunctions

**Coordinating Conjunctions** join words, or groups of words, of equal rank. Equal rank does not mean that the groups of words have to be of equal length, or mean the same kind of thing, or have the same number of letters. It simply means the two things being joined must both be nouns, or both be verbs, or both be the same kind of clause. They must be equal in what they are.

Recall from Lesson 5 the difference between a *clause* and a *phrase*. Coordinating conjunctions can join two clauses, or two phrases, as well as two simple words. A clause is a group of words with a *subject* and a *verb*, whereas a phrase is simply a group of words, without a subject/verb.

Clause: "I walked to the museum"

Phrase: "To the museum"

There are only seven coordinating conjunctions. They are:

**F**or   **A**nd   **N**or   **B**ut   **O**r   **Y**et   **S**o

You can easily remember them by looking at the first letter of each word. Those letters spell out “FANBOYS”.

Eg:

*John* **or** *Tim* can be responsible for this.

The *beautiful girl* **and** the *handsome boy* lived happily ever after.

I like to bake things **so** I made Timothy’s birthday cake myself.

I am loving with my tone, **yet** firm with my words.

**Correlative Conjunctions** join words, or groups of words, just like coordinating conjunctions do. The Correlative conjunctions are just a little more stylish!

The correlative conjunctions are **always in pairs**. Think of your *relatives* that come in pairs--an aunt and uncle or a pair of grandparents--to remember this one. The correlative conjunctions are only five pairs of words. They are:

Either...or      neither...nor  
both...and      not only...but also  
whether...or

Note that some of the words on this list also can do the job of coordinating conjunctions-- *when they are on their own*. “Nor” is a coordinating conjunction, as is “or” and “and”! These words are Coordinating when they are on their own, but Correlative when they are in one of these listed pairs! If you see an “or” in a sentence and want to call it a coordinating conjunction, double check that there is not also an “either” lurking around in the sentence, acting together with that “or” to join two words together.

“I must either rescue this princess or die!”

You could take out the “either,” and still have a perfectly good, grammatically correct sentence:

“I must rescue this princess or die!” The “or” could do the job of joining “rescue” and “die” together perfectly well on its own--and there, “or” would be a coordinating conjunction, since it is all by itself, not in a pair with “either”. If we want our sentence to be just a bit fancier, however, we can use the “EITHER/or” correlative conjunction pair to join the two verbs.

Eg:

She is **not only** *kind*, **but also** *beautiful*.

The babysitter didn’t know **whether** *to laugh* **or** *to cry* with frustration.

**Either** *you come with me* **or** *you stay behind*.

**Both** *the children* **and** *the policeman* were exhausted after the chase.

The speech was **neither** *interesting* **nor** *compelling*.

Can you share a couple examples of your own?