

15 Conjunctions and connecting words

A Basic conjunctions

Conjunctions join two parts of a sentence and help to show the connection between the two parts of the sentence.

<i>conjunction</i>	<i>function</i>	<i>example</i>
and	tells you more	We went home and went straight to bed.
but	makes a contrast	They are rich but they aren't happy.
because	answers the question <i>why?</i>	We went home because we were tired.
so	tells you the result	We went home early, so we missed the end of the concert.
when	answers the question <i>when?</i>	We went home when Jane wanted to.
before, after	answers the question <i>what happened first?</i>	We went home before the concert ended. We went home after Max Jones had sung his first song.
although, though	tells you something surprising	We went home although / though we did not really want to.
if	makes a condition	We will go home if we are tired.

B Other connecting words

The words in this table are useful for making connections between words and phrases.

<i>word</i>	<i>function</i>	<i>example</i>
only	says something is not very big or not very much	He sleeps only 3 hours every night.
even	says something is surprising or unusual	Even their 10-year-old son works in the shop.
like	makes a comparison	She looks like her dad.
than	used after a comparative adjective or adverb	She works harder than he does.
also, too, as well	says something is extra	He works in the shop and she does also / too / as well.

Exercises

15.1 Choose one of the underlined words to complete the sentence.

- 1 Sam liked school because/although/if he had many friends there.
- 2 Sam left school so/but/and he joined the navy.
- 3 He hadn't travelled much but/before/after he joined the navy.
- 4 Sam was seasick when/if/so he left the navy.
- 5 He got a job in a bank because/although/and he had no qualifications.
- 6 He will stay at the bank when/if/though he likes it there.

15.2 Write down ten sentences from the table. Use each of the conjunctions once.

Mary agreed to marry Paul	after	she loves him.
	although	she doesn't love him.
	and	she loved him.
	because	she didn't love him.
	before	they had two sons.
	but	he moves to London.
Mary will marry Paul	if	he moved to London.
	so	he was a pop star.
	though	they decided to set up a business together.
	when	

15.3 Write each of the conjunctions in A in your own language.

15.4 Fill in the gaps with words from the table in B.

I love swimming and my brother loves swimming ⁽¹⁾..... Almost all my family loves swimming. ⁽²⁾..... my grandmother swims every day. She swims ⁽³⁾..... a fish. ⁽⁴⁾..... my father doesn't like it very much. I can swim better ⁽⁵⁾..... my father.

15.5 Think about your family and your habits. Write sentences using *only, even, than, like, also, too* and *as well* about your habits.

I play tennis and my mother plays as well. My mother plays better than I do.

15.6 Complete these sentences for *yourself*.

- 1 I am learning English because
- 2 I'll learn more English if
- 3 I am learning English and
- 4 I am learning English although
- 5 I started learning English when
- 6 I can speak some English, so
- 7 I'll learn more English but