

CONJUNCTIONS

These are words that basically connect two parts of a sentence. They are a very important part-of-speech because they join together words, phrases and clauses:

bread AND butter (= JOINS TWO WORDS TOGETHER)
up the stairs AND along the corridor (= JOINS TWO PHRASES)
Pablo likes tea AND Felipe likes coffee (= JOINS TWO CLAUSES)

There is no special form. Many are short, simple words (AND, BUT, FOR SINCE etc.); others are two or three words (SO THAT, AS LONG AS,) which always go together.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS = join parts of a sentence that are grammatically equal or similar. Used to show that the elements they join are similar in importance and structure. They always come between the words they are joining. There are **SEVEN** of them, all short words of only two or three letters:

AND, BUT, OR, NOR, FOR, YET, SO (FANBOYS)

Look at these examples - the two parts that the coordinating conjunction joins are shown in square brackets []:

I like [TEA] and [COFFEE].
[ROSY LIKES TEA], but [FRED LIKES COFFEE].

When they join independent clauses, it is always correct to place a comma before the conjunction, but if the sentence is short it's not needed:

I want to work as an interpreter in the future, so I am studying English at university.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS = join a subordinate (dependent) clause to a main (independent) clause. The dependent clause can't exist on its own. Here are some common subordinating conjunctions:

AFTER, ALTHOUGH AS, BECAUSE, BEFORE, HOW, IF, ONCE, SINCE, THAN, THAT, THOUGH, UNTIL, ETC.

Look at this example:

MAIN/INDEPENDENT CLAUSE (*Rosy went swimming*) + **SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION** (*although*) + (*it was raining*).
SUBORDINATE / DEPENDENT CLAUSE

You can see here that 'although' comes at the beginning of a subordinate clause. It's "introducing" it.

However, a subordinate clause can come after or before a main clause. Thus, two structures are possible:

Rosy went swimming ALTHOUGH it was raining. = (MAIN CLAUSE + SUBORDINATE CLAUSE)
ALTHOUGH it was raining, Rosy went swimming. = (SUBORDINATE CLAUSE + MAIN CLAUSE)