

The Conjunction A

3d. A **conjunction** is a word used to join words or groups of words.

Coordinating conjunctions—*and, but, for, nor, or, so, and yet*—join words or groups of words that are used in the same way.

EXAMPLE Would you rather have shrimp **or** salmon for dinner?

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that join words or word groups that are used in the same way. The correlative conjunctions are *both . . . and, either . . . or, neither . . . nor, not only . . . but also*, and *whether . . . or*.

EXAMPLE **Both** Zina **and** Jada can play the mandolin.

EXERCISE A Underline the coordinating conjunction in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. The river flows through several states and empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

1. She didn't stay up too late, nor did she watch too much television.
2. The sun had risen, yet it was still too foggy to drive.
3. Arguments soon broke out, for the players had not agreed upon the rules beforehand.
4. The baby cried, so her mother comforted her.
5. Will you be taking the bus or riding your bike?
6. Terri picked the basketball, and Nikki picked the football.
7. I wanted to see the previews, but the movie had already started.
8. Rocco didn't think the joke was funny, yet he pretended to laugh.
9. He lifted the vase carefully, for he didn't want to break it.
10. Karin ordered a salad and a baked potato.

EXERCISE B For each of the following sentences, underline the correlative conjunctions.

Example 1. The child wanted neither food nor water.

11. They took vacations not only in July, but also in December.
12. She will neither take a cab nor ride the bus.
13. The team couldn't decide whether to practice more or take a break.
14. Both the team captain and the coach thought that the competition went well.
15. We will see either the new French film or the popular German film.

The Conjunction B

3d. A **conjunction** is a word used to join words or groups of words.

Coordinating conjunctions—*and, but, for, nor, or, so, and yet*—join words or groups of words that are used in the same way.

EXAMPLE Birthdays **and** wedding anniversaries are among the events we celebrate.

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that join words or word groups that are used in the same way. The correlative conjunctions are *both . . . and, either . . . or, neither . . . nor, not only . . . but also*, and *whether . . . or*.

EXAMPLE Their family celebrates **not only** birthdays **but also** name days.

EXERCISE A Circle the coordinating conjunction in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the words or word groups that the conjunction joins.

Example 1. All around the world people hold parties, and they have festive celebrations.

- Many African American families celebrate Juneteenth and Kwanzaa.
- At an African coming-of-age party, there are music and dancing.
- At a Jewish bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah, there is prayer.
- At a Polish or Mexican wedding, the bride collects money during a special dance.
- For some, weddings are held in houses of worship, for they are religious ceremonies.
- Some wedding ceremonies are not religious, so they are held at home.
- Nearly all people welcome the new year, yet not everyone celebrates it on January 1.
- New Year's Day is the same day each year in Sweden, but it falls on different days in Vietnam.
- The Chinese celebrate January 1 and their lunar new year.
- Name a holiday or festival that is important to your family.

EXERCISE B Circle the correlative conjunctions in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the words or word groups that the conjunctions join.

Example 1. Unique species of both plants and animals exist in rain forests.

- Not only parrots but also hornbills can be seen in some rain forests.
- Both eagles and monkeys live in rain forests, too.
- Either people take steps to save the rain forests now, or these habitats will be lost.
- The question is not whether the rich nations or the poor ones are at fault.
- Neither one group nor another is solely to blame for the destruction of the rain forests.