

Conjunctions: How It Works

A conjunction is a joining word. It connects words, groups of words or whole sentences.

1. A conjunction joins words or ideas

Gus **and** Dot ran.

We can walk **or** ride.

Each one joins two things.

2. and, but, or

and adds one thing to another

but shows a difference

or gives a choice

small **but** strong

3. so and because

so tells the result. **because** tells the reason.

It rained, **so** we stayed in.

We stayed in **because** it rained.

4. when, if, before, after

These join an idea about time or about what must happen first.

We clap **when** the song ends.

Wash your hands **before** you eat.

How to pick a conjunction

1

Adding or choosing?

and adds. or gives a choice.

2

Showing a difference?

Use but.

3

A reason or a result?

because gives the reason. so gives the result.

So or because?

The **reason** comes after because.

I wore a coat **because** it was cold.

The **result** comes after so.

It was cold, **so** I wore a coat.

Watch out

Do not string idea after idea together with and.

✗ We went to the park and we played and we ate and we went home.

Break it up:

✓ We went to the park and played. Then we ate and went home.