

Conjunction

~ English Grammar · Competitive Exams ~



A **conjunction** joins two or more words, phrases or sentences.

Ram **and** Shyam are friends. · You sing **but** she dances.

Kinds of Conjunction

Kind	Examples
Single Conjunction	and, but, if, when, since, why, because, as
Pair (Correlative) Conjunction	not only ... but also, neither ... nor, either ... or, both ... and, whether ... or, no sooner ... than, hardly ... when, although ... yet

① Pairs & Parallel Structure

X wrong → ✓ correct

i) Use the **correct pair**: neither ... **nor**, not only ... **but also**, no sooner ... **than**, hardly ... **when**, although ... **yet**.

X Neither he or his brother knew.

✓ Neither he nor his brother knew.

X Hardly had I left than it rained.

✓ Hardly had I left when it rained.

ii) Keep **parallel structure** — the same part of speech follows each half of the pair.

X Neither Sara sings nor dances.

✓ Sara neither sings nor dances.

X She not only dances but also sing.

✓ She not only dances but also sings.

Pairs & Parallel – contd.

iii) Do **not** put **that / and / as to** before a relative word (why, who, which, if).

X I don't know **that** why he left.

✓ I don't know **why** he left.

X He asked me **that** if I was free.

✓ He asked me **if** I was free.

iv) After **because, since, as**, do **not** add **therefore / so / hence**.

X As he was late, **therefore** he missed the bus.

✓ As he was late, **he** missed the bus.

X **Because** it rained, **therefore** we stayed in.

✓ **Because** it rained, **we** stayed in.

② Use of Conjunctions

X wrong → ✓ correct

i) As a conjunction, **since** takes **present perfect** before it and **simple past** after it.

X Two years have passed **since** I **have** met him.

✓ Two years have passed **since** I **met** him.

ii) **Until** = time ('till'); **Unless** = condition ('if not'). Never add **not** after them.

X **Unless** you do **not** hurry, you will miss it.

✓ **Unless** you **hurry**, you will miss it.

X Wait here **unless** I come back.

✓ Wait here **until** I come back.

iii) **Lest** means 'so that ... not'; it is followed by **should** and takes **no not**.

X Run fast **lest** you will miss the bus.

✓ Run fast **lest** you **should** miss the bus.

X Be careful **lest** you **should not** fall.

✓ Be careful **lest** you **should** fall.

Use of Conjunctions – contd.

iv) **As** is a conjunction (+ clause); **Like** is a preposition (+ noun/pronoun).

X She sings as a bird.

✓ She sings like a bird.

X Do like I say.

✓ Do as I say.

v) **Because** is followed by a **clause**; **Because of** is followed by a **noun**.

X He was late because of he missed the bus.

✓ He was late because he missed the bus.

X The match stopped because rain.

✓ The match stopped because of rain.

vi) **So ... as** is used in **negative** sentences; **As ... as** in both. **Such ... that** takes a clause.

X He is so tall as his brother.

✓ He is as tall as his brother.

X There was such a crowd as we could not move.

✓ There was such a crowd that we could not move.

vii) **The same ... that** (verb clear) or **the same ... as** (verb hidden). **And** joins like ideas; **but** joins opposite ideas.

X It is the same watch which is yours.

✓ It is the same watch that is yours.

X He is rich and unhappy.

✓ He is rich but unhappy.

✓ Golden rule → a conjunction needs a **clause** (subject + verb) after it; a preposition needs only a **noun**. That single test settles **as/like** and **because/because of**.

Quick Tips

- ✓ Correct pairs: *neither...nor*, *not only...but also*, *no sooner...than*, *hardly...when*, *although...yet*.
- ✓ Keep parallel structure; never put **that** before *why/who/if*.
- ✓ **Since** (conj.) → present perfect + simple past; never add **not** after *until/unless*.
- ✓ **Lest** → **should** (no 'not'); **As** + clause, **Like** + noun.
- ✓ **Because** + clause, **Because of** + noun; **and** joins like ideas, **but** joins opposite ideas.

③ Exercise – Spot the Error

Find the part (a / b / c / d) that has the error.

1. Neither Ravi (a) / or his friend knew (b) / the way (c) / to the temple (d).
2. She not only (a) / dances (b) / but also (c) / sing (d).
3. Ten years have (a) / passed since (b) / I have (c) / seen you (d).
4. The reason why (a) / he failed is (b) / because he did not (c) / study (d).
5. Because she was (a) / tired, therefore (b) / she went (c) / to bed early (d).
6. I cannot explain (a) / that why I (b) / want to read (c) / this book (d).
7. He passed the exam (a) / easily because (b) / of he had (c) / studied hard (d).
8. He has (a) / lived both in (b) / Delhi as well as (c) / in Mumbai (d).
9. If I would have (a) / worked hard, I (b) / would have got (c) / the prize (d).
10. Although he (a) / is poor but (b) / he is (c) / content (d).
11. The choice is (a) / between a glorious (b) / death or (c) / a dull life (d).
12. Not only he goes (a) / to the club (b) / but also (c) / stays there (d).
13. He will (a) / either do the work (b) / else return (c) / the money (d).
14. I don't know (a) / that he (b) / will come (c) / or not (d).

... continued on next page →

Spot the Error – contd.

15. I have never (a) / met him (b) / nor heard (c) / of him (d).
16. He is (a) / the same man (b) / who helped (c) / me yesterday (d).
17. Such was (a) / his rudeness (b) / as everyone (c) / disliked him (d).
18. You would have (a) / passed the test (b) / if you would have (c) / studied hard (d).
19. Let us know (a) / if he can (b) / come (c) / or not (d).
20. She excels (a) / not only in music (b) / and also (c) / in dance (d).
21. He is (a) / so tired (b) / as he (c) / cannot walk (d).
22. She has (a) / done nothing (b) / and cried (c) / all day (d).
23. He seldom (a) / or ever gives (b) / his friend (c) / a gift (d).
24. I took (a) / the medicine so (b) / as I might (c) / recover soon (d).
25. She does not (a) / know what (b) / have you (c) / bought (d).
26. If he was (a) / a king, (b) / he would (c) / help the poor (d).
27. Sweta is (a) / beautiful but (b) / every dress (c) / suits her (d).

Answer Key ✓

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| 1. (b) → nor (neither ... nor). | 15. (c) → or (never ... or). |
| 2. (d) → sings (parallel structure). | 16. (c) → that (the same ... that). |
| 3. (c) → I saw you (simple past after 'since'). | 17. (c) → that (such ... that + clause). |
| 4. (b) → that ('the reason why ... that'). | 18. (c) → had (no 'would have' in the if-clause). |
| 5. (b) → drop therefore (no 'therefore' after 'because'). | 19. (a) → whether (whether ... or not). |
| 6. (b) → why (drop 'that'). | 20. (c) → but also (not only ... but also). |
| 7. (c) → because ('because' + clause). | 21. (c) → that (so ... that + clause). |
| 8. (c) → and (both ... and). | 22. (c) → but (nothing ... but). |
| 9. (a) → had (no 'would have' in the if-clause). | 23. (b) → never (seldom or never). |
| 10. (b) → yet (although ... yet). | 24. (c) → that (so ... that + clause). |
| 11. (c) → and (between ... and). | 25. (c) → you have (subject before verb after the conjunction). |
| 12. (a) → He not only goes (parallel structure). | 26. (a) → were (unreal condition → 'were'). |
| 13. (c) → or (either ... or). | 27. (b) → and (like ideas → 'and'). |
| 14. (b) → whether (whether ... or not). | |

☆ Join ideas the right way! ☆