



UNIVERSITY OF
**DETROIT
MERCY**

Conjunctions

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The Writing Center
DETROIT MERCY

What Is a Conjunction?

- ⇒ A conjunction “joins” more than one element of a sentence.
- ⇒ In a sentence, these two elements may be independent clauses (or an independent and dependent clause).

What Is a Coordinating Conjunction?

- ⇒ A coordinating conjunction joins two independent clauses and denotes equality between the two clauses.
- ⇒ Coordinating conjunctions include the words: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (remember the acronym FANBOYS).
- Example: I have two dogs, and they are best friends.

What is a Subordinating Conjunction?

- ⇒ A subordinating conjunction joins an independent and independent (a.k.a. subordinate) clause.
- ⇒ The subordinating conjunction is attached to and indicates which is the dependent clause.
- ⇒ **Common Subordinating Conjunctions:** after, although, as, as if, because, before, even though, how, if, in order that, once, rather than, since, so that, than, that, though, unless, until, when, where, whether, while, why.
- Example: I like dogs **because** they are man’s best friend. OR: *Because they are man’s best friend*, I like dogs. Notice the comma following the *Dependent Clause*.

What Is a Conjunctive Adverb?

- ⇒ A Conjunctive Adverb is used specifically when the writer wants to join independent clauses using a semicolon.
- ⇒ Common Conjunctive Adverbs: consequently, finally, furthermore, however, moreover, nevertheless, similarly, then, therefore, thus.
- ⇒ Punctuation around Conjunctive adverbs (when used to join independent clauses) is specific and consistent.
 - A semicolon follows the first independent clause.
 - The Conjunctive Adverb follows the semicolon.
 - A comma follows the Conjunctive Adverb.
 - Conjunctive Adverbs are frequently used in this way to correct comma splices and run-on sentences.

Example: I like dogs; however, I prefer large dogs.

Source: Hacker & Sommers, *The Bedford Handbook*, 8th edition