# Coherence: Connecting Ideas
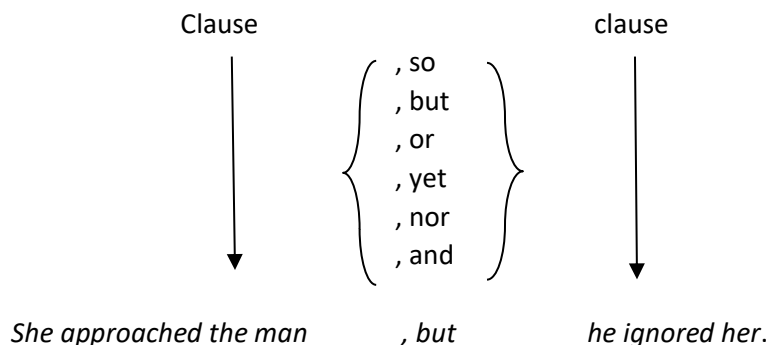
This resource describes how to use join clauses using connectors.

## Types of Connectors

Connectors show the relationship between the ideas in two clauses. Three different kinds of connectors that join clauses in sentences are **coordinators**, **conjunctive adverbs**, and **subordinators**.

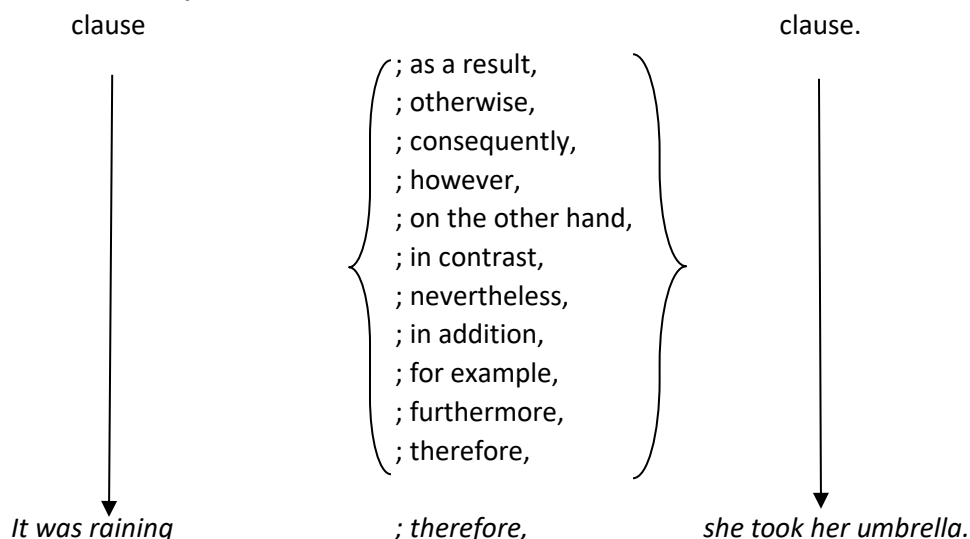## 1. Coordinators are used to join two independent clauses.

Commas are used before coordinators in this context.

Clause        clause

- , so
- , but
- , or
- , yet
- , nor
- , and

*She approached the man    , but     he ignored her*.

*The office is closed for the next two days, <u>but</u> you can still phone to leave a message.*
*I forgot my essay, <u>so</u> I will have to hand in my assignment late.*

## 2. Conjunctive adverbs

Use a semicolon, a conjunctive adverb, and a comma.

clause        clause.

- ; as a result,
- ; otherwise,
- ; consequently,
- ; however,
- ; on the other hand,
- ; in contrast,
- ; nevertheless,
- ; in addition,
- ; for example,
- ; furthermore,
- ; therefore,

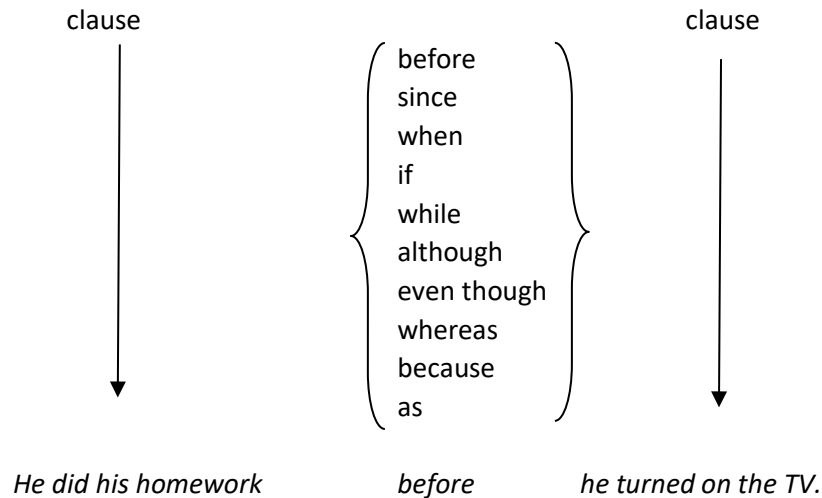*It was raining     ; therefore,     she took her umbrella.*

Either a period or semicolon can separate the two sentences.
*The students laughed; <u>however</u>, the instructor was not trying to be funny.*
*The students laughed. <u>However</u>, the instructor was not trying to be funny.*
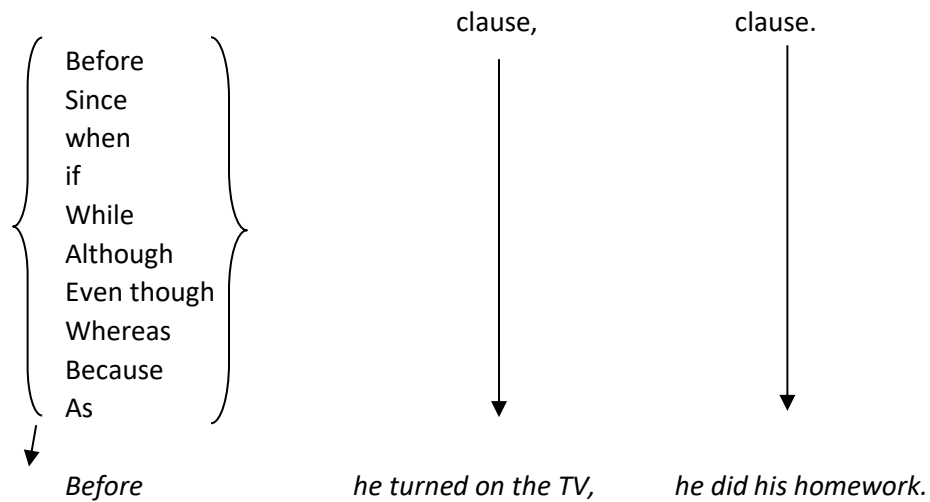
## 3. Subordinators join a dependent clause to an independent clause.

Subordinators appear before the dependent clause. Subordinators can be used either between two related clauses, or at the beginning of a sentence that finishes with the independent clause:

A Subordinator Between the Two Clauses

clause                                                                                          clause

before
since
when
if
while
although
even though
whereas
because
as

*He did his homework                    before                    he turned on the TV.*

A Subordinator at the Beginning of a Sentence, and a Comma before the Independent Clause

clause,                                    clause.

Before
Since
when
if
While
Although
Even though
Whereas
Because
As

*Before                                    he turned on the TV,                    he did his homework.*

Notice how the punctuation differs from conjunctive adverbs (which have punctuation on both sides of the connecting word/s) whereas subordinators use no punctuation between clauses.

Conjunctive Adverb: *The students laughed**; however,** the instructor wasn't trying to be funny.*
Subordinator: *The students laughed **even though** the instructor wasn't trying to be funny.*

## Meanings for Connectors

Connectors express many different relationships between ideas.

To add another idea

| Coordinators | Subordinators | Conjunctive Adverbs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *and* | | *furthermore* | *also* |
| | | *moreover* | *in addition* |
| | | *besides* | |

*I'd never vote for him for student council. He only cares about rich people; furthermore, he'd do nothing to protect us against higher tuition fees.*

To restate, explain or emphasize an idea

| Coordinators | Subordinators | Conjunctive Adverbs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *that is* | *actually* |
| | | *in other words* | *namely* |

*Students should paraphrase; that is, they should put the information in their own words.*

To give an example

| Coordinators | Subordinators | Conjunctive Adverbs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *for example* | *to illustrate* |
| | | *for instance* | |

*The Amelia Douglas Art Gallery is an interesting place. For instance, one month a year it displays art created by faculty and staff from our college.*

To show a choice

| Coordinators | Subordinators | Conjunctive Adverbs |
|---|---|---|
| *or* | | |
| *nor* | | |

*The students couldn't strike, nor could they get their tuition fees returned.*

To show a difference

| Coordinators | Subordinators | Conjunctive Adverbs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *but* | *while* | *in contrast* | *however* |
| | *whereas* | *on the other hand* | *still* |
| | *though* | *instead* | *otherwise* |

*Some think that 8:00 AM is an unreasonable time for class, but others think it's fine.*
*While many students don't like lab assignments, Anita enjoys them.*

To show the opposite of what you might expect

| Coordinators | Subordinators | | Conjunctive Adverbs | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *yet* | *although* | *even though* | *nevertheless* | *even so* |
| | *though* | | *admittedly* | *nonetheless* |

*Jesse knows he should start on his assignment, yet he's still watching TV.*
*Nick knows he needs more sleep; nevertheless, he often stays up playing computer games.*

To show a similarity

| Coordinators | Subordinators | Conjunctive Adverbs |
|---|---|---|
| | *just as*<br>*as* | *similarly*<br>*likewise*<br>*in the same way* |

*Peter loves political science just as Rhonda loves English Literature.*
*Mae has a great sense of humour; in the same way, her sister loves a good joke.*

To show a cause or reason

| Coordinators | Subordinators | Conjunctive Adverbs |
|---|---|---|
| *for* | *because*      *now that*<br>*since*        *as long as*<br>*as* | |

*The college cancelled all the classes since the weather was bad.*
*She took Psychology because she was curious about human behaviour.*

To show a result or effect

| Coordinators | Subordinators | Conjunctive Adverbs |
|---|---|---|
| so | *so* + adjective + *that*<br>*such* + …noun + *that* | *as a result*        *thus*<br>*consequently*     *hence*<br>*as a*              *accordingly*<br>*consequence*<br>*therefore* |

*He made a lot of mistakes, <u>so</u> he had to do the assignment again.*
*She was <u>so</u> tired <u>that</u> she went to bed at 8 o'clock.*

To show a time relationship

| Coordinators | Subordinators | | Conjunctive Adverbs | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *before*<br>*after*<br>*when*<br>*whenever*<br>*while* | *as soon as*<br>*until*<br>*as*<br>*since*<br>*once* | *previously*<br>*subsequently*<br>*finally*<br>*afterward*<br>*meanwhile* | *after that*<br>*next*<br>*since then*<br>*then,*<br>*first, second, etc.* |

*She was listening to the test instructions <u>when</u> her cell phone rang.*
*The students started by researching the business; <u>next</u>, they interviewed the managers of the company.*

To show a condition

| Coordinators | Subordinators | Conjunctive Adverbs |
|---|---|---|
| *or* | *if*            *when*<br>*even if*      *whenever*<br>*unless* | |

*We'll have our final class party at Queen's Park <u>unless</u> it rains.*
*<u>If</u> it rains, we'll meet at my place.*