

# Join Ideas Using Conjunctions

**How to use:** Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Name the five common conjunctions: and, but, so, or, because
- 2 Join two short sentences into one using the right conjunction
- 3 Choose the conjunction that matches the relationship between two ideas

## MINI LESSON

When you write two short sentences that belong together, you can join them into one using a special joining word called a conjunction.

### The Five Conjunctions

- and — adds one idea to another: I like cats and I like dogs.
- but — shows a difference or surprise: I like cats but I am allergic.
- so — shows a result: It was cold, so I wore my coat.
- or — shows a choice: Do you want juice or water?
- because — gives a reason: I smiled because I was happy.

### How to Join Two Sentences

- Write the first sentence without the period.
- Add a comma if needed, then the conjunction.
- Add the second idea after it.
- Example: I was tired. I went to bed. ' I was tired, so I went to bed.

### Choosing the Right Conjunction

- Ask: are the ideas similar? ' use and
- Ask: are the ideas opposite or surprising? ' use but
- Ask: is the second idea a result? ' use so
- Ask: is it a choice? ' use or
- Ask: is the second idea a reason? ' use because

VOCABULARY

**Conjunction** A joining word that connects two ideas or sentences into one longer sentence  
*e.g. and, but, so, or, because*

**And** Adds one idea to another — used when the ideas are similar  
*e.g. I like apples and I like pears.*

**But** Shows a difference or surprise between two ideas  
*e.g. It was sunny, but cold.*

**So** Shows that the second idea is a result of the first  
*e.g. I was tired, so I slept.*

**Or** Gives a choice between two options  
*e.g. Juice or water?*

**Because** Gives the reason why something happens  
*e.g. I smiled because I was happy.*

**Conjunction Words**

**and**

adds ideas together

**but**

shows a difference

**so**

shows a result

**or**

gives a choice

**because**

gives a reason

These joining words are called conjunctions.

**Before and After**

It was raining. I stayed inside.

Two short sentences

join with **so**

It was raining,  
**so** I stayed inside.

One longer sentence — much better!

! Ask yourself: "What is the relationship between these two ideas? Which conjunction fits best?"

**TRACING PRACTICE**

Trace each sentence, then copy it once on the lines below. Notice the comma before the conjunction when two ideas are joined.

TRACE

I like cats and dogs

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

It rained so we stayed

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

She was tired but

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

Want juice or water

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

I smiled because

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

and

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

but

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

so

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

or

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

because

COPY 1

COPY 2

*Tip: When you trace a conjunction, say its meaning aloud — and adds ideas, but shows a difference.*

## EXERCISES — MATCH THE PAIRS

Draw a line from each pair of short sentences on the left to the joined sentence on the right.

1. I was hungry. I ate a sandwich.

2. She loves to dance. She takes lessons.

3. He was tired. He could not sleep.

4. We can go to the park. We can stay home.

5. I put on my boots. It was snowing outside.

6. The dog barked. It heard a noise.

A. We can go to the park or we can stay home.

B. I put on my boots because it was snowing outside.

C. The dog barked because it heard a noise.

D. I was hungry, so I ate a sandwich.

E. She loves to dance and she takes lessons.

F. He was tired, but he could not sleep.

Write the matching letter next to each number (e.g. 1-B, 2-A, 3-C...).

1 — \_\_\_\_ 2 — \_\_\_\_ 3 — \_\_\_\_ 4 — \_\_\_\_ 5 — \_\_\_\_ 6 — \_\_\_\_

## EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

### 1. What is a conjunction?

- a describing word for a noun
- a joining word that connects two ideas
- an end punctuation mark

### 2. Which conjunction adds one idea to another?

- but
- so
- and

### 3. Which sentence uses "but" correctly to show a contrast?

- I wanted to swim, but the pool was closed.
- I wanted to swim, but I love the pool.
- I wanted to swim but and went home.

### 4. Which conjunction gives a reason?

- or
- because
- and

### 5. "It was raining, \_\_\_ we stayed inside." Which conjunction fits best?

- but
- or
- so

### 6. Which sentence uses "or" to give a choice?

- You can eat apples, or they are red.
- You can have apples or oranges.
- You can eat apples, or I like them.

### 7. How do you join two sentences with a conjunction?

- Remove the period from the first sentence, add a comma, then write the conjunction and the second idea.
- Keep both periods and add the conjunction between them.
- Only write the second sentence and drop the first.

### 8. "She was late \_\_\_ she missed the bus." Which conjunction fits?

- and
- because
- or

### 9. What does a conjunction do to two short sentences?

- It splits one sentence into two.
- It removes the second sentence.
- It joins them into one longer sentence.

### 10. Which conjunction shows a difference or surprise between two ideas?

- and
- but
- so

## ASSESSMENT

### PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Names at least three conjunctions (and, but, so, or, because) when asked.
- Writes two short sentences joined correctly into one sentence using a conjunction on the paper worksheet.
- Chooses a conjunction that matches the relationship between the two ideas (e.g., uses "but" for contrast, "because" for reason).
- Removes the period from the first sentence and adds a comma before the conjunction when writing the joined sentence.