

Mastering Conjunctions with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To identify and use a variety of subordinating and coordinating conjunctions to join clauses and sentences.

Read the front of each card to learn about how Max the monkey and Pip the caterpillar use conjunctions to connect their ideas. Test your knowledge by completing the sentences on the back.

What is a coordinating conjunction?

A word used to join two independent clauses of equal importance, often remembered by the acronym FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

Max wants a banana, _____ he has no appetite.

but (Coordinating conjunction showing contrast).

What is a subordinating conjunction?

A word that joins a main clause to a subordinate clause, which cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

Pip reads books _____ she finds them fascinating.

because (Subordinating conjunction explaining a reason).

Complete: _____ it was raining, the lion went for a walk anyway.

Although (Subordinating conjunction showing concession).

Is 'and' a coordinating or subordinating conjunction?

Coordinating.

Max will jump high _____ he sees the trampoline.

when (Subordinating conjunction showing time).

**Join these sentences using 'or': Max eats an apple.
Max eats a pear.**

Max eats an apple or a pear.

Explain why we use the word 'unless' in a sentence.

It is a subordinating conjunction used to describe a condition that must be met for something to happen.

Compare and contrast: How does a subordinating conjunction differ from a coordinating conjunction?

Coordinating conjunctions join clauses of equal weight, whereas subordinating conjunctions link a dependent clause to a main clause, creating a complex sentence.

Justify your answer: Is 'since' always a subordinating conjunction?

Yes, when used to join clauses to show time or cause, it functions as a subordinating conjunction.

What might happen if we removed all conjunctions from our writing?

The writing would consist of short, choppy, simple sentences that lack flow and fail to explain the relationships between ideas.