

# Sentence Connectors

<b>Coordinating Connectives</b> Link equal ideas and clauses		<b>Subordinating Connectives</b> Subordinate one idea to another		
	<b>Coordinating Conjunctions</b>	<b>Conjunctive Adverbs</b>	<b>Subordinating Conjunctions</b>	<b>Relative Pronouns</b>
<b>Add idea</b>	and	additionally, in addition, furthermore, likewise, moreover, also, besides equally important, similarly		who, whom, whose, which, whichever, whatever, that, who(m)ever
<b>Contrast</b>	but yet	however, even so, instead, nevertheless, still, on the other hand, on the contrary, otherwise, conversely, in contrast, in spite of, notwithstanding	although, though, even though, whereas	
<b>Cause and Effect</b>	so for	therefore, consequently, thus, hence	as, because, since, in order that, due to the fact that, so that, inasmuch as	
<b>Condition</b>	or nor		if, before, even though, so long as, as if, as though, how, as much as, as long as, unless, whether, why, provided that	
<b>Time</b>		earlier, beforehand, at first, previously, eventually, at the same time, later, afterwards, first, now, next, thereafter, subsequently, finally, then, meanwhile, at once, immediately	before, as soon as, once, since, until, after, when, whenever, while	
<b>General to Specific</b>		in fact, as a matter of fact, indeed, actually, namely, for example, for instance		
<b>Purpose</b>			in order that, so that, so (when "that" is understood), lest (negative purpose)	
<b>Space</b>			where wherever	
<b>Manner</b>			in that to the extent that	

## Coordinating Conjunctions

- Are used to connect words or groups of words that are *grammatically equal*.
- Are perfectly acceptable in formal writing, except *so*.
- Are usually preceded by a comma, especially when they join long independent clauses.
  - The editor had identified the problem, *but* she wasn't sure how to solve it.

## Conjunctive Adverbs

- Connect words that are grammatically equal; they are used with a semicolon and a comma.
- As adverbs, they can occupy any one of three positions. Please note the subtle changes in emphasis with each:
  - The editor had identified the problem; *however*, she wasn't sure how to solve it.
  - The editor had identified the problem; she wasn't sure, *however*, how to solve it.
  - The editor had identified the problem; she wasn't sure how to solve it, *however*.
- The semicolon on its own can also be a connector.
  - The editor had identified the problem; she wasn't sure how to solve it.

## Subordinating Conjunctions

- Introduce clauses that are dependent on a main, or independent clause.
- Are never separated from the subordinate clause to which they belong, though a comma usually separates the two clauses.
  - *Although* we've run the data a number of times, we keep getting different results.
  - We keep getting different results, *although* we've run the data a number of times.

## Relative Pronouns

- Often introduce adjective clauses that modify the subject.
- Are often placed directly after the noun/pronoun to which they refer and are usually not set off by commas:
  - People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
  - The student who did best on the exam did not stay up all night long cramming.

However, they are often set off by commas when they modify a proper noun or do not restrict a noun that is already restricted:

- That student, who did not stay up all night long cramming, scored highest on the exam.

NB *Nonrestrictive clauses* add nonessential detail and can be lifted from the sentence without damaging the sentence's overall meaning. They should be set off with commas  
*Restrictive clauses* are necessary to define/distinguish the noun. They can't be removed without impairing the sentence and should not be set off by commas.

<i>Who:</i>	Person
<i>Whom:</i>	Object of preposition
<i>Whose:</i>	Possessive
<i>Which:</i>	Refers to things
<i>That:</i>	Refers to persons or things

*Which/That:* Generally use *which* with nonrestrictive clauses (set off with commas) and *that* with restrictive clauses (not set off with commas).

This can be an important distinction. What is the difference in the two statements here?

1. “Alkaloids that contain nitrogen can be poisonous.”
2. “Alkaloids, which contain nitrogen, can be poisonous.”

Statement 1 defines (restricts) the type or category of alkaloids that can be poisonous (not all alkaloids; only those that contain nitrogen). Hence the clause is essential to the meaning of the statement and it should not be set off by commas.

Statement 2 states that all alkaloids can be poisonous. The clause “which contain nitrogen” adds detail, but is not essential to the main message. Hence it is a nonrestrictive clause that should be set off by commas. It can be deleted from the sentence with no harm to the main message of the statement (though interesting detail is lost).

### **Correlative Conjunctions**

Function: Pairs that work together:

both...and	neither...nor	either...or	not only...but (also)
whether...or	not...but	as...as	

- These parallel elements may or may not be separated by punctuation.
  - Whether ‘tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles... *Hamlet, Act III, Scene I*
  - Neither a borrow nor a lender be; ... *Hamlet, Act I, Scene III*
- While the MS Word grammar checker will always suggest “not only...but also,” the “also” is often unnecessary.
  - I am not only witty in myself, but the cause that wit is in other men.  
*Henry the Fourth Part 2, Act I Scene II*

# Transitional Devices (a useful list)

<b>Add</b>	and, again, and then, besides, equally important, finally, further, furthermore, nor, too, next, lastly, what's more, moreover, in addition, first (second, etc.)
<b>Compare</b>	whereas, but, yet, on the other hand, however, nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, by comparison, where, compared to, up against, balanced against vis à vis, but, although, conversely, meanwhile, after all, in contrast, although this may be true
<b>Prove</b>	because, for, since, for the same reason, obviously, evidently, furthermore, moreover, besides, indeed, in fact, in addition, in any case, that is
<b>Exception</b>	yet, still, however, nevertheless, in spite of, despite, of course, once in a while, sometimes
<b>Time</b>	immediately, thereafter, soon, after a few hours, finally, then, later, previously, formerly, first (second, etc.), next, and then, subsequently
<b>Repeat</b>	in brief, as I have said, as I have noted, as has been noted
<b>Emphasize</b>	definitely, extremely, obviously, in fact, indeed, in any case, absolutely, positively, naturally, surprisingly, always, forever, perennially, eternally, never, emphatically, unquestionably, without a doubt, certainly, undeniably, without reservation
<b>Sequence</b>	first, second, third, and so forth. A, B, C, and so forth. next, then, following this, at this time, now, at this point, after, afterward, subsequently, finally, consequently, previously, before this, simultaneously, concurrently, thus, therefore, hence, next, and then, soon
<b>Examples</b>	for example, for instance, in this case, in another case, on this occasion, in this situation, take the case of, to demonstrate, to illustrate, as an illustration
<b>Conclude</b>	in brief, on the whole, summing up, to conclude, in conclusion, as I have shown, as I have said, hence, therefore, accordingly, thus, as a result, consequently

*Source:* [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl\\_transition.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_transition.html)