

# Conjunctions • • • • • Rules to Remember

**Rule:** Coordinating conjunctions are connecting words. They join words, phrases, or clauses. Two of the most commonly used coordinating conjunctions are *and* and *or*.

Salesman knocks on door and says to little girl in the yard: "Is your mother home?"

Little girl: "Yes."

When nobody comes to the door, the salesman says: "I thought you said she was home!"

Little girl: "She is. I don't live here."

- *Explanation:* "and" means "in addition to" or "at the same time."

Girl: "Which do you think is more important: the sun or the moon?"

Boy: "Obviously, the moon."

Girl: "Why do you think so?"

Boy: "The moon gives us light at night, which is when we need it. The sun only gives us light during the day, which is when we don't need it."

- *Explanation:* "or" implies a choice.

**The coordinating conjunctions *but* and *yet* indicate contrast.**

What has 88 teeth but never brushes them?

... a piano

When can a pocket be empty and yet have something in it?

... when it's got a hole in it

**Rule:** Subordinating conjunctions, such as *so*, *unless*, and *because* indicate cause and effect.

Why was the mummy sent into the game to pinch-hit?

... so he could wrap up the game

How are riddles just like pencils?

... They're no good unless they have a point.

Why did the boy keep on his shirt when he took a bath?

... because the label said wash and wear



# Conjunctions • • • • • • • • Practice Page

**Directions:** Complete each joke by writing one of the conjunctions from the box. Each conjunction is used more than once.

and	because	but	or	so
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- Teacher: "Where is the English Channel?"  
Student: "I don't know. We don't have cable, \_\_\_\_\_ we only get the local stations."
- How do you know that the moon prefers clear nights?  
... \_\_\_\_\_ when the clouds disappear, the moon beams
- What coat has no zipper \_\_\_\_\_ buttons \_\_\_\_\_ must be put on wet?  
... a coat of paint
- Which are the most mathematical bugs?  
... Mosquitoes. They subtract from pleasure, add to misery, divide your attention, \_\_\_\_\_ multiply rapidly.
- Mother: "Why are animal crackers spread all over the table?"  
Child: "I'm searching them."  
Mother: "For what?"  
Child: "The box says you shouldn't eat them if the seal is broken."  
... \_\_\_\_\_, I'm looking for the seal."
- Girl: "How was the play you went to last night?"  
Boy: "It was good, \_\_\_\_\_ I only saw the first act."  
Girl: "Why?"  
Boy: "The program said, "Act 2. . . Three Months Later."  
... \_\_\_\_\_ I went home."
- Why couldn't the mummy answer the telephone?  
... \_\_\_\_\_ he was tied up
- Hopeful boyfriend: "Sir, I'd like to ask for your daughter's hand in marriage."  
Father: "Sorry, you've got to take all of her \_\_\_\_\_ nothing."
- What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, \_\_\_\_\_ never in a hundred thousand years?  
... the letter M
- How was the blind carpenter's sight restored?  
... He picked up his hammer \_\_\_\_\_ saw.

# Answer Key

**Note:** When multiple answers are required, they are separated by commas.

## Conjunctions

1. so
2. because
3. or, and
4. and
5. So
6. but, so
7. because
8. or
9. but
10. and