

Sentence Connectors

And

shows addition and is used to join two similar sentence elements, such as two nouns, two verbs, two adjectives, two adverbs, two phrases or two clauses. When “and” connects two sentence elements, no comma is used. When three or more elements are joined, a comma is used.

Examples:

- Joanne loves *pop songs* and *classical music*. (nouns)
- The actress *acts* and *sings*. (verbs)
- She is *kind* and *beautiful*. (adjectives)
- The dancers are dancing *gracefully* and *confidently* on the stage. (adverbs)
- I put *a vase of flowers on the table* and *hung a painting on the wall*. (phrases)
- *Michelle dusted the furniture* and *her sister vacuumed the floor*. (clauses)

But

shows contrast and is used to connect statements that express opposite ideas.

Examples:

- main idea *Helen enjoys seafood* but contrast *she is allergic to prawns*.
- *He wrote a letter* but *he did not post it*.

Because

shows reason and it is used to tell why an action or something happens.

Examples:

- action *We spoke softly* because reason *we did not want to wake the baby up*.
- *The steak was burnt* because *the fire was too strong*.

Or

expresses a choice or is used to connect different possibilities.

Examples:

- My colleague will take *one* or *two days* off.
- The cook may prepare *Chinese dishes* or *Indian dishes* for the guests.

Both

refers to two things or people together.

Examples:

- The comedy is suitable for **both** *children* and *adults*.
- Mr Steve, the new landlord, is **both** *friendly* and *helpful*.

Though

is used to introduce a statement that makes the main statement seem surprising.

Examples:

- *He still complained, though* he was offered a good job.
- **Though** the tour package is cheap, *it is the least popular*.

With

is used to say that two or more people or things are together in the same place.

Examples:

- *The couple* spent a pleasant evening **with** *their only child*.
- I mixed *the flour* **with** *some water* to make soft dough.

As

is used to indicate that something happens during the time when something else is taking place.

Examples:

- *The car* bumped into the van **as** *it turned the corner*.
- **As** *the worker hoisted the cargo*, *the ropes snapped*.

Who

is used to show which person or people you mean.

Examples:

- Did you know *the guest* **who** left the jacket behind?
- The boss fired *the workers* **who** were involved in a fight.

And

can be used to refer to an action that follows another.

Examples:

- The fisherman *anchored the boat* **and** *unloaded his catch of fish*.
- A thief *snatched the lady's handbag* **and** *ran away*.

Or

can be used to warn or advise somebody that something bad could happen.

Examples:

- They should not try to climb the tall tree **or** *they may get injured in a fall.*
- Do not drink too much coffee **or** *you will find it hard to fall asleep.*

As

can be used to connect the result of something with its reason.

Examples:

- *The host called off the party* **as** no one accepted his invitation.
- *I stopped at a café* **as** I was tired after an hour's walk.

Also

shows addition and is used to add something to what you have mentioned.

Examples:

- The building is a stylish hotel and **also** *a popular meeting place.*
- He writes novels and **also** *hosts a show on a local radio station.*

Although

shares the same meaning as “though” and is more common in writing than in speaking.

Examples:

- *Sylvia has decided not to buy the dress,* **although** she likes the design very much
- **Although** he is past his retirement age, *he still works for the company.*

When

is used to mean “during that time something happens”. In other words, it connects an action or event to a point in time.

Examples:

- They were fast asleep **when** *the burglary took place.*
- **When** *the boss stepped into the office,* everybody fell silent.

Since

can be used to give the reason for something.

Examples:

- We are surfing the Internet **since** *there is free wi-fi at the restaurant.*
- **Since** *all the antiques are rare*, they are sold at high prices.

Before

means “earlier than the time or event mentioned”.

Examples:

- The computer broke down **before** *they started their work.*
- **Before** *Mr and Mrs moved into the house*, the walls were given a new coat of paint.

After

means “later than the time or event mentioned”.

Examples:

- Nobody expected the athlete to win the race **after** *he had hurt his leg.*
- **After** *I had finished the gardening work*, I went for a shower.

Until

means “up to a time in the past or future”.

Examples:

- The last-minute shoppers did their shopping **until** *the supermarket closed at midnight.*
- **Until** *they told me they were friends*, I thought they were brothers.

If

is used to say that something can, may or will happen.

Examples:

- *The pupils can achieve greater success* **if** they work harder.
- **If** the flooding worsens, *the villagers will evacuate the village.*

So

is used to show the reason for or the result of something.

Examples:

- Ian withdrew some money from the ATM **so** *he could buy a new pair of sneakers.*
- The flight has been delayed **so** *the passengers have to wait for another hour.*

Even though

shares the same meaning as “though” and “although”, and is used for emphasis.

Examples:

- *Some drivers park their cars on double yellow lines even though it is illegal to do so.*
- *Even though he was very disappointed, he did not give up on his plan.*

For

can be used to give reason for an action or event.

Examples:

- *The patient has to stay indoors, for chickenpox is very infectious.*
- *You are free to use all the facilities, for you are a member of the sports club.*

So that

is used to talk about purpose.

Examples:

- *I got up early so that I could take the first bus to the city centre.*
- *We should plan our journey carefully so that there will not be any delay.*

While

is used to talk about two actions happening at the same time.

Examples:

- *The sheep are grazing in the field while the shepherd is resting under the tree.*
- *While the baker was baking the bread, his assistant was making some dough.*

Whom

is the object form of “who” and it is also used after a preposition.

Examples:

- *I do not know the visitor whom you met just now.*
- *Is he the actor whom they often talk about?*

Whose

is the possessive form of “who” and it is used to tell us the person something belongs to.

Examples:

- This is *the leader* whose opinions are important to us.
- Can you recommend *a mechanic* whose skill is reliable?

Which

is used to refer to animals and things.

Examples:

- They managed to capture *the deer* which escaped from the zoo.
- I need some *suggestions* which can help me improve my English.

That

is used instead of “who” or “which” to refer to people, animals and things, and it is more informal than “who” or “which”.

Examples:

- *The locals* that the tourists talked to were very friendly and helpful.
- My neighbour has just installed *a gate* that opens and closes automatically.

As well as

shows addition but it is a bit different from “and”. The expression before “as well as” carries a stronger emphasis than the one after it. Please remember that the verb must agree with the noun before “as well as”. When we put a verb after “as well as”, we use the -ing form.

Examples:

- *Jayden* as well as his two friends *rides* a motorcycle to school.
- *Jodie* works as an accountant as well as *running* a bookshop.

Too

shares the same meaning as “also” but it is usually used at the end of a sentence.

Examples:

- They will join the school choir; I will *join* the school choir too.
- She is thirsty and she may be *hungry* too.

Unless

is used to say that something will only happen or be true in a particular situation.

Examples:

- The employee will not get a rise **unless** *his superior is satisfied with his work.*
- **Unless** *something unexpected happens,* we will set off as early as we can.

Where

is used to mean “in the place or situation in which something happens”.

Examples:

- He hopes to live in *a country* **where** *the climate is mild.*
- The company is at *the stage* **where** *more skilled workers are needed.*

Provided that

is used to say what must happen or be done to make it possible for something to happen.

Examples:

- He will get the job **provided that** *he has a good knowledge of computer.*
- **Provided that** *you remove your car now,* you will be fined for illegal parking.

Whether

is used to talk about something that is not certain.

Examples:

- Julia asked me **whether** *I would be able to help her with her household chores.*
- The workers want to know **whether** *they will get their pay on time.*

**Either...
or**

means one or the other of two things or people.

Examples:

- The traveller will set off for **either** *Malaysia* **or** *Singapore* very soon.
- **Either** *Jolin* **or** *Hebe* knows how much the dress costs.

Neither...nor

means not one or the other of two things or people.

Examples:

- The audience liked **neither the plot nor the cast** of the movie.
- **Neither Gavin nor his roommate** cleans the room regularly.

Prefer...to

is used to say that you like one thing or person better than another.

Examples:

- The guests **preferred a sit-down meal to a buffet**.
- We **prefer the peace and quiet of the village to the hustle and bustle of the city**.

Because of

is used to say that somebody or something is the reason for something.

Examples:

- I did not understand the foreigner's English **because of his strange accent**.
- The roofer fell to the ground **because of the broken ladder**.

Not...but rather

is used to say that one thing is not true but a different thing is true.

Examples:

- Their failure is **not their lack of practice but rather their lack of confidence**.
- Our main intention is **not to win the race but rather to gain experience**.

Not only...but also

is used to emphasise that something else is also true.

Examples:

- Tokyo is **not only a busy city but also a modern city**.
- The plumber not only works **not only on weekdays but also at weekends**.

Whether...or

is used to talk about two possibilities.

Examples:

- We will find out **whether the sale is still on or not**.
- They are not sure **whether they should stay or leave the office**.

**In order to
/ So as to**

means “with the intention of doing something”.

Examples:

- Thousands of tourists go to the lake **in order to** *see the black swans.*
- Sandra and I met on Saturday **so as to** *discuss our school assignment.*

Then

is used to say what happens next.

Examples:

- She worked out at the gym, **then** *had her dinner at the restaurant.*
- Let’s get our fishing rods ready, **then** *we will go fishing together.*

**In spite of
/ Despite**

is used to show that something happens or is true without being affected by a factor mentioned.

Examples:

- The hikers continued their journey **in spite of** *the bad weather.*
- **Despite** *the fact that breakfast was not included,* I enjoyed my stay at the hotel.

Except

is used to introduce the only person or thing about which a statement is not true.

Examples:

- They all took part in the clean-up **except** *Joe and Tim.*
- Mr Lucas and his family liked all the animals in the zoo **except** *the crocodiles.*

Besides

means “in addition to”.

Examples:

- The shop sells T-shirts and jeans **besides** *shoes and socks.*
- **Besides** *cooking a variety of food,* the chef makes dessert.

So...that

is used to emphasise the degree or amount of something by saying what the result is.

Examples:

- The comedy was **so funny that** *we laughed until we cried.*
- The weather is **so hot that** *my body is soaked in sweat.*

As well

means “in addition to” and it comes in end position.

Examples:

- I read entertainment news in newspapers and *in magazines as well*.
- We witnessed the accident and *they witnessed it as well*.

Unlike

is used to say how a person or thing is different from another.

Examples:

- George is helpful and generous, *unlike his elder brother who is selfish and stingy*.
- *Unlike most of the shops in town*, this shop does not give discounts.

However

is used to introduce a statement that seems surprising or very different from what has been said.

Examples:

- Yasmine holds two jobs, *however, she tries to find time for leisure activities*.
- There are vacant parking spaces, *however, they are reserved for the office staff*.

Once

means “from the moment when something happens”.

Examples:

- The water supply will be restored *once the leaking water main is repaired*.
- *Once the blackout took place*, all the shops along the street were closed.

Otherwise

is used to state what the result would be if something did not happen.

Examples:

- *You should take a nap, otherwise you will feel sleepy in the afternoon*.
- *Please handle the glassware carefully, otherwise you may break them by accident*.

As long as

is used to say that one thing can happen or be true if another thing happens or is true.

Examples:

- *The water is safe to drink **as long as** it is not contaminated.*
- ***As long as** you stay indoors, you will not suffer from heatstroke.*

On the other hand

is used to give another opinion or fact that should be considered.

Examples:

- *There are more job opportunities in the city, **on the other hand**, the cost of living is much higher.*
- *Photography is an interesting hobby, **on the other hand**, good cameras do not come cheap.*

As a result

is used to say that something happens or exists because of something else.

Examples:

- *The petrol prices increased, **as a result**, we had to pay more for the bus fares.*
- *The road was badly damaged, **as a result**, it was closed for repairs.*

Would rather ... than

is used to say that you like one thing better than another.

Examples:

- *I **would rather** stay at home and read a book **than** go out in the hot sun.*
- *They **would rather** travel in the country **than** go overseas.*

As soon as

is used to say that something will happen immediately after something else has happened.

Examples:

- *We will start the work **as soon as** we receive instructions from the manager.*
- ***As soon as** the train arrived, the passengers got their luggage and queued up.*

Instead

means “in place of somebody or something else”.

Examples:

- My uncle sold *his car* and bought *a motorcycle* **instead**.
- Why did you leave *the company* and got a job in *the factory* **instead**?

Yet

is used to say that a fact, a situation or a quality that is surprising after what you have said.

Examples:

- They are just primary schoolchildren, **yet** *they are interested in literature*.
- These products are from Europe, **yet** *the prices are not as expensive as we think*.

Apart from

means "in addition to".

Examples:

- Mrs Freddie is taking a course in Italian cooking, **apart from** *Chinese cooking*.
- **Apart from** *a new shopping mall*, there will be another car park in the neighbourhood.

In case

means “because of the possibility of something happening”.

Examples:

- *I will drive you home* **in case** *your dad is too busy to pick you up*.
- **In case** *your mobile phone does not work properly*, use mine.