

# Conjunctions:

A conjunction is a part of speech that is used to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. Conjunctions are considered to be invariable grammar particle, and they may or may not stand between items they conjoin.

## Types of Conjunctions:

There are several different types of conjunctions that do various jobs within sentence structures. These include:

- **Subordinating conjunctions** – Also known as subordinators, these conjunctions join dependent clauses to independent clauses.
- **Coordinating conjunction** – Also known as coordinators, these conjunctions coordinate or join two or more sentences, main clauses, words, or other parts of speech which are of the same syntactic importance.
- **Correlative conjunction** – These conjunctions correlate, working in pairs to join phrases or words that carry equal importance within a sentence.
- **Conjunctive adverbs** – While some instructors do not teach conjunctive adverbs alongside conjunctions, these important parts of speech are worth a mention here. These **adverbs** always connect one clause to another, and are used to show sequence, contrast, cause and effect, and other relationships.

When people first learn to write, they usually begin with short, basic sentences like these: "My name is Ted. I am a boy. I like dogs." One of the most important jobs conjunctions do is to connect these short sentences so they sound more like this: "I am a boy named Ted, and I like dogs."

## BUT:

We use *but* to link items which are the same grammatical type (coordinating conjunction). *But* is used to connect ideas that contrast.

main idea		contrast
<i>I love fruit</i> <i>They've bought a house in Manchester</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>I am allergic to strawberries.</i> <i>they still haven't sold their house in London.</i>

The phrase *but not* is common:

*The room has been painted **but not** in the color that I asked for.*

*I'd love to go for a pizza with you **but not** tonight.*

## **But meaning 'except'**

*But* means 'except' when it is used after words such as *all*, *everything/nothing*, *everyone/no one*, *everybody/nobody*:

*The cleaning is done now, **all but** the floors. They still have to be washed.*

*I arrived at the airport and realized that I'd brought **everything but** my passport!*

**Everyone but** Anna has checked in.

**Nobody but** the receptionist was left in the lobby of the hotel.

We use object pronouns after *but* (*me, you, him, us, etc.*) even in subject position:

**Everybody but me** has paid.

**No one but him** would get a job like that.

In formal situations, we can use subject pronouns after *but*:

**Everyone but she** knew how the drama was going to end.

## But for + reason

*But for* is used to introduce the reason why something didn't happen:

**But for the traffic**, I would have been here an hour ago. (The traffic was very heavy – if it weren't for the traffic, I'd have been here an hour ago.)

They would have been badly injured **but for the fact that they were wearing seat belts**. (They were wearing seat belts – if it weren't for the fact that they were wearing seat belts, they would have been badly injured.)

## All but meaning 'almost completely'

I had **all but finished** the essay when the computer crashed and I lost it all.

His parents had **all but given up** hope of seeing him again.

## Though

Although and though both mean 'in spite of something'. They are **subordinating conjunctions**.

This means that the clause which they introduce is a subordinate clause, which needs a main clause to make it complete:

[main clause] *Everyone enjoyed the trip to the final* **though** [subordinate clause] *we lost the match!*

[subordinate clause] **Though** *it was rainy*, [main clause] *we put on our jackets and went for a walk.*

### Spoken English:

*Though* is more common than *although* in general and it is much more common than *although* in speaking. For emphasis, we often use *even* with *though* (but not with *although*).

### Warning:

When the *though/although* clause comes before the main clause, we usually put a comma at the end of the clause. When the main clause comes first, we don't need to use a comma:

**Even though** I earn a lot of money every month, I never seem to have any to spare!

I still feel hungry **even though** I had a big lunch.

## Although and though with -ing clauses

In formal situations, we can use *although* and *though* to introduce an -ing clause:

[a teacher talking about a student]

*Peter, **although working** harder this term, still needs to put more work into mathematics.*

[a doctor talking about a patient]

*The patient, **though getting** stronger, is still not well enough to come off his medication.*

## Although and though with reduced clauses

In formal speaking or writing, we can use *although*, *though* and even *even though* to introduce a clause without a verb (a reduced clause):

*Raymond, **although very interested**, didn't show any emotion when she invited him to go for a walk.*

[referring to a car] ***Though more expensive**, the new model is safer and more efficient.*

## Although and though meaning 'but'

When the *although/though* clause comes after a main clause, it can also mean 'but it is also true that ...':

*Karen is coming to stay next week **although** I'm not sure what day she is coming.*

*We didn't make any profit **though** nobody knows why.*

## Though meaning 'however'

**Spoken English:**

Especially in speaking, we can use *though* (but not *although* or *even though*) with a meaning similar to *however* or *nevertheless*. In these cases, we usually put it at the end of a clause:

**A:** *You have six hours in the airport between flights!*

**B:** *I don't mind, **though**. I have lots of work to do. I'll just bring my laptop with me.*

**A:** *It's expensive.*

**B:** *It's nice, **though**.*

**A:** *Yeah, I think I'll buy it.*

## As though

*As though* has a meaning very similar to *as if*. *As if* is much more common than *as though*:

*You look **as though/as if** you have seen a ghost!*

*He looks **as though/as if** he hasn't slept.*

## However

*However, whatever, whichever, whenever, wherever, whoever*

*It doesn't matter how, what, when, etc.*

If we add -ever to *wh*-words like *how, what, which, when, where* and *who*, we change their meaning.

form	meaning
<i>however</i>	'any way at all' or 'it doesn't matter how'
<i>whatever</i>	'anything at all' or 'it doesn't matter what'
<i>whichever</i>	'any one at all' or 'it doesn't matter which'
<i>whenever</i>	'any time at all' or 'it doesn't matter when'
<i>wherever</i>	'any place at all' or 'it doesn't matter where'
<i>whoever</i>	'any person at all' or 'it doesn't matter who'

**However** *you try to explain it, I still can't understand it.* (Any way at all that you try to explain it ... /It doesn't matter how you try ...)

Please take **whatever** *you want from the fridge if you feel hungry.* (anything at all that you want)

**Whatever** *you do, don't lose this key.*

Choose **whichever** *time suits you best then write your name against that time on the list.*

Call in **whenever** *you like. I'm always at home.* (at any time at all that you like)

**Wherever** *you live, you have the right to a good postal service.* (it doesn't matter where you live)

**Whoever** *you ask, you will get the same answer: no.* (any person you ask/it doesn't matter who you ask)

### Emphasizing questions

We can use *wh*-words with -ever to ask very emphatic questions. In speaking, we stress -ever:

**However** *will you manage to live on such a small income?* (stronger than *How will you manage ...?*)

Charlie, **whatever** *are you doing?* (stronger than *What are you doing?*)

**Whenever** *are you going to stop complaining? You're getting on everyone's nerves!*

Being vague: *whatever, whenever, wherever, whoever*

We can use *whatever, whenever, wherever* and *whoever* alone to refer in a non-specific way to people and things:

**A:** *Shall I send you all the dates and times?*

**B:** Yes, **whatever**. *That would be useful. Thanks.* (it doesn't matter what you send)

**A:** *What time shall I come?*

**B:** **Whenever**, really. (no specific time/it doesn't matter)

*If you talk to the manager **or whoever**, you'll be able to find out what's happening.* (talk to the manager or a similar, unspecified person)

Sometimes people use *whatever* in a sarcastic or disrespectful way, usually saying it in an exaggerated way, to show they are not interested (for example, with exaggerated intonation):

**Parent:** *You'd better start saving money if you want to go to university!*

**Teenager:** **Whatever!**

### *Whatsoever*

*Whatsoever* is an emphatic form of *whatever*. It is most common after a negative phrase:

*He seems to have no ambitions **whatsoever**.*

*I can see no reason **whatsoever** why she should not attend classes.*