

English Grammar – Conjunctions

A “conjunction” is a word that links words, phrases, or clauses.

1. **and, but, or, so, because/since/as, when, while/as, then**

Examples:

- We have tickets for the cinema **and** the theater.
- We are going to the beach on Sunday, **but** Jane can't come with us.
- Have you seen **or** heard from Mary recently?
- I wanted a good seat at the show, **so** I bought my ticket very early. (*então*)
- I don't listen to jazz **because** I don't like it. (*por que*)
I don't listen to jazz **since** I don't like it. (*já que*)
I don't listen to jazz **as** I don't like it. (*pois*)
- I always buy Coca-Cola and popcorn **when** I go to the cinema. (*quando*)
- I ate a sandwich **while** I was waiting in the line. (*enquanto*)
I ate a sandwich **as** I was waiting in the line. (*enquanto*)
- Every night, I do my homework, **then** I watch TV, **then** I go to bed. (*então*)

2. though / although	–	<i>embora</i>
<i>(these are the same, but we normally put 'although' at the start of the phrase)</i>		
albeit	–	<i>embora</i>
however	–	<i>no entanto</i>
nevertheless	–	<i>contudo / todavia / de qualquer maneira / mesmo assim</i>
despite	–	<i>apesar de / mesmo que (demands a gerund)</i>
in spite of	–	<i>apesar de / mesmo que (demands a gerund)</i>
whereas	–	<i>enquanto (que)</i>
even though	–	<i>ainda que / mesmo que</i>
therefore	–	<i>logo / portanto</i>
hence	–	<i>logo (very formal, not common)</i>
thereby	–	<i>desse modo / assim / por meio disso (demands a gerund)</i>
meanwhile	–	<i>enquanto isso</i>
even so	–	<i>mesmo assim</i>
moreover	–	<i>além disso</i>

Examples:

- I loved the film, **though** it was very long.
Although the film was very long, I loved it.
- The film was excellent, **albeit** very long.
- I speak German and French, **however** I prefer to speak English.
- To enter Harvard University is very difficult, **nevertheless** I want to try.
- We played football **despite** the weather being bad. (*verb in gerund form*)
We played football **in spite of** the weather being bad. (*verb in gerund form*)
- I am studying French, **whereas** my brother is studying German.
- John can speak five languages **even though** he is only seven years old.
- I think **therefore** I am. (*René Descartes*)
- We should drive more slowly **thereby** using less fuel. (*verb in gerund form*)
- The three little pigs were relaxing inside the house, **meanwhile** the big bad wolf was waiting outside.
- Mandarin is very difficult, **even so** I intend to learn it!
- Linux is easy to use; **moreover**, it's free!

Exercise 1. Select the correct conjunction.

1. I will be late today _____ my car has broken down.
 - a) because
 - b) though
 - c) however

2. I don't drink coffee _____ it makes me nervous.
 - a) since
 - b) but
 - c) and

3. I like to stay at home for my vacations, _____ my wife likes to travel abroad.
 - a) or
 - b) since
 - c) whereas

4. Mei Li can't go to university in Canada, _____ she doesn't speak English.
 - a) whereas
 - b) thereby
 - c) as

5. Paula got the job _____ she has no experience.
 - a) as
 - b) nevertheless
 - c) even though

6. It was easy to fix Johnny's toy, _____ he cried a lot
 - a) and
 - b) even so
 - c) thereby

7. Jerry passed his driving test first time _____ I had to retake it three times.
 - a) whereas
 - b) as
 - c) though

8. Fred wants to play football _____ his leg being broken.
 - a) so
 - b) nevertheless
 - c) despite

Exercise 2. Complete the blanks with an appropriate conjunction (there is often more than one possibility).

1. We always fight, _____ we always become friends again.
2. Would you prefer lasagna _____ chicken pie for lunch?
3. I was broke _____ I had spent all my money on presents for my family.
4. I know that you've failed your driving test 3 times, _____ it's important to keep trying.
5. I'm going to the beach _____ the weather being cold.
6. Why don't you listen to the radio _____ you cook lunch?
7. Your English is excellent, _____ mine is not very good.
8. We've broken up, _____ he keeps calling me!
9. He wants to marry me, _____ I'm not ready to make a commitment.
10. Talk about bad luck! I have toothache _____ the flu at the same time!
11. We have a lot of free time today, _____ why don't we play chess?
12. He has a mansion, a Ferrari and an apartment in Miami, _____ he's only a teacher.
13. Every evening I get home, I eat dinner, _____ I drink a small black coffee.
14. We always have long meetings, _____ the results are worthwhile.
15. I'm going to visit our customer in Russia _____ the journey being very expensive.
16. Our salaries are high, _____ their salaries are low.
17. They want us to increase production, _____ we don't have the appropriate equipment.
18. They are going to change to a new supplier, _____ it's only a small company.
19. _____ you're here, let's talk about the problems with our main customer.
20. Some fruits provide vitamin C _____ helping us to avoid colds.

Suggested videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYd3whIRpik> (7 mins)
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JqAs_vdQb8 (15 mins)

More exercises:

https://www.english-hilfen.de/en/exercises/word_order/conjunctions2.htm

https://www.english-grammar.at/online_exercises/connectives/con008-linking-phrases.htm