



English

Fourth stage

L3

Assistant Lecturer

Maryam Mohammed Al-aarajy

Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative Conjunctions are pairs of words that work together to connect two parts of a sentence that hold an equal value, or **correlate** with one another. Here are a few examples to get us started:

Either/Or

- I will **either** go to Baghdad **or** Najaf for vacation.

Neither/Nor

- **Neither** the dogs **nor** the cats would eat the meat he cooked.

Not only/But also

- My supervisor **not only** has new ideas **but also** helps to bring them to life.

When working with correlative conjunctions, there are three important rules to remember: ensure verb agreement, ensure pronoun agreement, and ensure parallel structure.

Join two singular subjects with a singular verb.

Correct Verb Agreement:

- **Neither** the boy **nor** his brother want to do their chore.
(incorrect)

Incorrect Verb Agreement:

- **Neither** the boy **nor** his brother wants to do their chore.

In this example, both *boy* and *brother* are singular, so the **singular** verb *want* must be used.

Join two plural subjects with a plural verb.

Correct Verb Agreement:

- **Either** the students **or** their parents was expected to pick up supplies for the project.
(incorrect)
- **Either** the students **or** their parents were expected to pick up supplies for the project.

In this example, both *students* and *parents* are plural, so the **plural** verb *were* must be used.

Join a singular subject and a plural subject with the verb form used for the subject closest to the verb.

Correct Verb Agreement:

- **Both** the captain **and** the soldiers runs two miles every day. (incorrect)
- **Both** the captain **and** the soldiers run two miles every day.

In this example, the plural word *soldiers* is closest to the verb, so the plural verb *run* must be used.

Ensuring Pronoun Agreement with Correlative Conjunctions

When two antecedents are used with a correlative conjunction, the rules follow a similar pattern to verb agreement rules. Singular antecedents use singular pronouns, plural antecedents use plural pronouns, and when both a singular and plural antecedent are used, the pronoun is based on the second antecedent, or the antecedent closest to the pronoun.

- **Either** the doctors **or** the nurses will visit their patients at least once a day.
- **Not only** the painting **but also** the sculptures show their unique style when put on display.

Ensuring Parallel Structure with Correlative Conjunctions

When using correlative conjunctions, it is important that the items or ideas being connected follow the same grammatical structure – they have equal functions in the sentence. This is called **parallel structure**. Parallel structure adds clarity to your writing, making it easier to follow.

Parallel:

- My brother **not only** *likes to play video games*, **but** he **also** *likes to watch movies*.

This example is **parallel** because both conjunctions are followed by a verb. Separating the conjunction **but also** to include the subject *he* is an acceptable way to use this conjunction.

- My brother likes **not only** *to play video games* **but also** *to watch movies*.

▪ **either . . . or**

*We can go to **either** Italy **or** Spain for our holiday.*

*You can **either** take it **or** leave it.*

- *Either my **brother** or my **mother** looks after our cat.*

- *Either my **brother** or my **parents** **look** after our cat.*
- *Neither the **manager** nor **his assistant** **is** here today.*
- *Neither the **manager** nor **his assistants** **are** here today.*

- **both . . . and**
***Both** basketball **and** football are popular in France.*
***Both** English **and** Arabic are spoken in Iraq.*

- **not . . . but**
*There are **not** two **but** three states.*
*In sport, what counts is **not** the winning **but** the taking part.*
- Other examples are:
 - She is **both** intelligent **and** beautiful.
 - I will **either** go for a walk **or** stay home and watch TV.
 - Jerry is **neither** rich **nor** famous.
 - He is **not only** intelligent, **but also** very funny.

Willingness and Unwillingness (Refusal)

Will and won't are used most often in English to talk about the future. However, they also have other functions, one of which is to express **willingness and unwillingness**.

Likewise, **would and wouldn't** are not only used for conditional sentences, but can be used to express **willingness and unwillingness** when speaking about the **past**.

will, won't

● **In the present: will, won't**

→ We can use **will** to say that someone is **willing** to do something:

Examples are:

Ali **will** always **help** you if you need him.

I **will take** you to the airport. I have nothing to do.

She **will give** you a lift if she meets you.

→ We can use **will not / won't** to express an **unwillingness** to do something:

I **won't cook** your dinner, you can cook it yourself.

There is no point in talking to him – he **won't listen**.

My car **won't start** – I'll have to take the bus.

would, wouldn't

- **In the past: would, wouldn't**

→ When speaking about **the past**, we can use **would** to express that someone was generally willing to do things:

Ali **'d** always **help** anyone in any situation.

She **'d send** a letter for you.

He **'d lend** you the money you need.

→ **Wouldn't** can express **unwillingness** or **refusal** in the past:

Try as I might, the door **wouldn't open**.

He **helped** me, but he **wouldn't wash** the dishes.

I was late for work because my phone **wouldn't ring**.

Exercises

Rewrite the sentences by using the words given.

1) I like playing football. I like swimming.

a) I not only like playing football but also swimming. (**not only.....but also**)

b) I like both playing football and swimming. (**both.....and**)

2) Scott doesn't like smoking. Serkan doesn't like lying.

a) Scott likes neither smoking nor lying. (**neither.....nor**)

b) Scott doesn't like both smoking and lying. (**both.....and**)

3) My mother cooks meat. My mother makes salad.

a) My mother not only cooks but also makes salad. (**not only.....but also**)

b) My mother both cooks and makes salad. (**both.....and**)

4) The gardener watered the flowers. He planted new trees.

a) The gardener not only watered the flowers but also planted new trees.(**not only.....but also**)

b) The gardener both watered the flowers and planted new trees.
(**both.....and**)

5) My little boy reads magazines or watches documentaries in his free time.

a) My little boy either reads magazines or watches documentaries in his free times. (**either....or**)

Q2: Fill in the blanks using correlative conjunctions.

neither – nor / **whether - or** / **either - or** / **both - and** / **as - as** / **not - but** / **not only - but also**

1. He has to decide to go to collegeget a job.

2. my teacher my principal has met my mom.

3. We foundshells pebbles at the beach.

4. She has talent a solid work ethic.

5. I have to..... clean my room do the dishes.

6. She is upset.... not happy