

Parts of Speech—Connectors

Establishing Relation With Prepositions and Conjunctions

Overview

Parts of speech such as prepositions and conjunctions serve to connect and establish relationships between words. Prepositions tend to connect nouns while conjunctions connect words, phrases, and clauses.

Prepositions

Prepositions mainly serve to establish the “when and where” relationships between nouns or pronouns and other parts of the sentence, often relating to time, direction, or location.

A preposition may lead into a noun (its “object”) to create a prepositional phrase: “**under** the bed.” Prepositional phrases can be added to sentences without additional punctuation.

Below are examples of prepositions, each one in bold:

- His mother went **to** his room and cleaned **under** the bed.
- The doctor gasped **at** the girl; she was growing antlers **on** her head!
- Cars slid **on** the ice **after** the storm.

Conjunctions

Conjunctions often tell us how clauses relate. Coordinating conjunctions tell us when the parts of the sentence are of equal weight. These conjunctions can be easily memorized by utilizing the acronym F. A. N. B. O. Y. S.:

For And Nor But Or Yet So

Below are examples with coordinating conjunctions in **bold**:

- The mother cleaned her son’s bed **and** closet, **but** not his desk **or** dresser.
- The doctor gasped, **for** the girl was growing antlers **yet** did not mind.
- The cars had summer tires, **so** they resisted sliding on neither the ice **nor** the snow.

Subordinating conjunctions tell us when clauses are not equal in structure, establishing contrast, sequence, cause and effect, etc. While *coordinating* conjunctions tend to appear in the middle of sentences, *subordinating* conjunctions can come at the beginning.

Subordinating conjunctions used in sentences:

- The mother cleaned her son's bed **since** it was so unbelievably messy.
- The doctor gasped **after** the girl came in growing antlers. **Whereas** everyone else was baffled, she did not mind them.
- **Although** the cars had new tires, they still slid on the ice **because** they drove so fast.

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