Conjunctions: and, but, or, because, so

Introduction



We have beef and pork today but no fish.

Definition

And, but, or, and so are conjunctions.

Construction

They join two parts of a sentence:<?xml:namespace prefix = "o" ns = "urn:schemasmicrosoft-com:office:office" />

l have two sons	and	one daughter.
l like dogs	but	l don't like cats.
Do you prefer tea	or	coffee?
We're not going out today	because	it's raining.
It's raining	SO	we're not going out today.

Uses

We use them to add some extra information.

Conjunction Use

Examples

and	To join two or more pieces of information - it suggests 'also'	I live in Paris <mark>and</mark> I work in a bank.
		We need bread, cheese and wine.
but	To join two contrasting ideas	I'm busy today <mark>but</mark> I'm free tomorrow.
or	To join two or more pieces of information in a negative	I don't like wine or beer.
sentence		We don't have any apples, oranges <mark>or</mark> bananas.
	To join two possibilities	We can finish this today <mark>or</mark> tomorrow.
because	To give a reason	I'm having lunch early today because I have a meeting this afternoon.
50	To add a consequence or a result	l have a meeting this afternoon so I'm having lunch early today.

Word order

The conjunctions and, but, or, because and so are usually placed in the middle of a sentence but can also be used to begin a sentence, especially in informal writing:

It's very quiet in the office at the moment because so many people are on holiday. Because so many people are on holiday, it's very quiet in the office at the moment.

With and, but, or and so, there is a sense of a pause before emphasising something:

We need to find new premises. And we need to employ two new managers! It's a serious problem. But, don't worry - I think I have a solution.

We could invite everyone to the meeting. Or maybe we should limit it to team leaders.

It's getting nearer to the deadline. So, let's work hard to get it finished.





In Canada, they speak English and French.



"I'm not available on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday." "Well, I'm free on Monday but not Tuesday."



You can pay now or when you leave.



I'm not buying this because I don't like the colour.



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It's sunny today so we're having a barbecue.



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