

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:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

I have two sons	and	one daughter.
I like dogs	but	I 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 and I work in a bank. We need bread, cheese and wine.
but	To join two contrasting ideas	I'm busy today but I'm free tomorrow.
or	To join two or more pieces of information in a negative sentence	I don't like wine or beer. We don't have any apples, oranges or bananas.
	To join two possibilities	We can finish this today or tomorrow.
because	To give a reason	I'm having lunch early today because I have a meeting this afternoon.
so	To add a consequence or a result	I 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.

Examples



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.



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

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Uses

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