



Conjunctions

Words that join other words, phrases, or clauses are called **conjunctions**. These are used a great deal in English composition. In any sentence or paragraph conjunctions are fairly easy to recognize, particularly once other parts of speech have been determined. The most common conjunctions are “**and**”, “**or**”, “**nor**” and “**but**”. In some sentences the words “**for**” (meaning “**because**”), “**yet**” (meaning “**but**”), and “**as well as**” (meaning “**and**”) are used as conjunctions, but in other sentences they are not.

Examples: His mother and father are visiting him.

The conjunction and joins two nouns.

The cat could be hiding under the bed or behind the couch.

The conjunction or joins **two adverb phrases**.

Harry is a good swimmer, but he can't dive very well.

The conjunction but joins two clauses (which look like sentences).

EXERCISES:

A. Underline the conjunctions in these sentences. Be careful!

Example: If you don't have any dimes or quarters, you can go into the bank and a teller will make change for you.

- 1) Len is taking piano lessons and his sister is learning to play the violin.
- 2) I'm scared of small spaces, for I'm worried I won't be able to breathe.
- 3) George and John watched TV, but their sisters couldn't decide whether to go to the movies or to the mall.
- 4) He was very tired, yet he carried on with his work.
- 5) Faranak and Consuela can read almost as well as I can.
- 6) You must obey the laws, or you will get into trouble.
- 7) I'm going to the hospital for an appointment, to the supermarket to pick up cheese and milk, so I can make macaroni.

SOLUTIONS

- A. 1) and 2) for 3) and, but, or 4) yet, 5) and 6) or
7) and, so

