

Using words to link ideas within a sentence

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Conjunctions

Conjunctions are the words used to link clauses, in this case, independent and dependent. Conjunctions only operate within a sentence, not between sentences and other longer pieces of text. Conjunctions are placed at the beginning of a clause.

Different types of conjunctions are used to express different types of relationships between ideas.

	Conjunctions (not a complete list)	Example
Place	Where, wherever	Wherever I go, I bump into my relatives. She left it where she found it.
Time	After, before, when, just as, as, while	He realized he had lost it when he arrived home. Before I decide, I want to talk to you.
Manner	The way that, as, by	The way that she spends money, you'd think she'd won lotto. By working overtime, she managed to finish the project.
Cause	As, because, since	I came because he saw me. Since you obviously aren't interested, let's leave it.
Condition	As long as, if, unless	If she wants to come, she'll have to hurry up. Never sit on an ants' nest unless you're wearing cast-iron pants.
Concession	Although, while, even though	Even though they weren't hungry, they ate a full meal. While recognizing his skill, I don't think he's right for the job.

(Derewianka, 2005, p.96)

Conjunctions as a source of difficulty in comprehension

Sometimes the conjunction is omitted, and the relationship between the clauses has to be inferred, e.g., *Andrew felt tremendous relief. He had got the marks he needed for uni. He slumped down into the chair, and breathed a long, slow sigh.* In this case, students will have to infer the relationship i.e., Andrew felt tremendous relief because he had got the marks he needed for uni, so he slumped down into the chair, and breathed a long, slow sigh. Also see "Compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences as a source of difficulty in comprehension".