Conjunctions and Linking Words

The words that join ideas and show how they connect: adding, contrasting, giving reasons and results. They turn lists of short sentences into clear, flowing writing. **FORMAL** *marks words best kept for writing.*

A1–C1 · with Spanish

Three kinds of joining word

how they fit into a sentence

Coordinating

join equal parts

F	A	N	B	O	Y	S
for	and	nor	but	or	yet	so
pues	*y*	*ni*	*pero*	*o*	*sin embargo*	*así que*

Remember them as **FANBOYS**. Use a comma before them when they join two full sentences: *It rained,* ***so*** *we stayed in.*

Subordinating

add a dependent clause

because, although, when, if, while, since, unless, until, as soon as, before, after

The clause can come first or second. If it comes first, add a comma: ***Although*** *it was late, we finished. / We finished* ***although*** *it was late.*

Correlative

pairs that work together

both … and	*tanto … como*
either … or	*o … o*
neither … nor	*ni … ni*
not only … but also	*no solo … sino también*
whether … or	*si … o*
as … as	*tan … como*

Adding

and, also, moreover

and	*y*
also BEFORE THE VERB	*también*
too / as well AT THE END	*también*
as well as + NOUN / -ING	*además de*
in addition	*además*
besides	*además*
moreover FORMAL	*además, asimismo*
furthermore FORMAL	*además*

Also goes before the main verb: *She* ***also*** *keeps bees.* **Too** goes at the end: *She keeps bees* ***too***.

Contrasting

but, although, however

but	*pero*
although / though + CLAUSE	*aunque*
even though STRONG	*aunque, a pesar de que*
however START + COMMA	*sin embargo*
yet	*sin embargo, aun así*
whereas / while COMPARING TWO	*mientras que*
despite / in spite of + NOUN / -ING	*a pesar de*
nevertheless FORMAL	*no obstante*
on the other hand	*por otro lado*

Despite the rain, we went. **Although** it rained, we went. Never "although … but".

Comparing

like, as, similarly

as … as	*tan … como*
like + NOUN	*como*
as + CLAUSE, OR A ROLE	*como*
as if / as though	*como si*
similarly / likewise FORMAL	*del mismo modo*
in the same way	*de la misma manera*
unlike + NOUN	*a diferencia de*

She works **like** a horse. She works **as** a vet. He talks **as if** he knew.

Alternatives

or, instead, rather

or	*o*
either … or	*o … o*
otherwise IF NOT	*si no*
instead START OR END	*en su lugar*
rather than + NOUN / VERB	*en vez de*
alternatively FORMAL	*como alternativa*
or else WARNING	*o si no*

Hurry, **or else** we'll miss the train. Let's walk **rather than** drive.

© Trivium Home School · triviumhomeschool.com

Reasons, results and conditions

Cause and reason

why?

because + CLAUSE	*porque*
because of + NOUN	*por, a causa de*
as / since + CLAUSE, OFTEN FIRST	*como, ya que*
due to + NOUN, FORMAL	*debido a*
owing to + NOUN, FORMAL	*debido a*
thanks to + NOUN, GOOD RESULT	*gracias a*

Because it was cold… / **Because of** the cold… (not "because the cold")

Result

so what happened?

so	*así que, por eso*
therefore FORMAL	*por lo tanto*
as a result	*como resultado*
consequently FORMAL	*en consecuencia*
so … that SO + ADJECTIVE	*tan … que*
such … that SUCH + (A) NOUN	*tal … que*

It was **so** cold **that** the pond froze. It was **such** a cold night **that**…

Purpose

what for?

to + VERB	*para*
in order to + VERB, FORMAL	*con el fin de*
so as (not) to + VERB	*para (no)*
so that + CLAUSE (CAN, COULD, WOULD)	*para que*
for + NOUN / -ING	*para*

He saved money **to** buy a tractor. (not "for buy")

Condition

if, unless, in case

if	*si*
unless = IF NOT	*a menos que*
as long as = ONLY IF	*siempre que*
provided that FORMAL	*con tal de que*
in case AS A PRECAUTION	*por si*
otherwise IF NOT, THEN	*si no, de lo contrario*
even if WHETHER OR NOT	*aunque, incluso si*

Take a coat **in case** it rains. (por si llueve, not "si llueve")

Time

when?

when	*cuando*
while / as AT THE SAME TIME	*mientras*
as soon as IMMEDIATELY AFTER	*en cuanto*
before / after	*antes de / después de*
until / till	*hasta que*
since FROM A POINT	*desde que*
once AFTER, WHEN COMPLETE	*una vez que*
meanwhile AT THE SAME TIME, FORMAL	*mientras tanto*

No **will** after time words: *I'll call you **when** I arrive.*

Exceptions

except, apart from

except	*excepto*
except for + NOUN	*salvo, excepto*
apart from	*aparte de*
other than	*aparte de, salvo*
but AFTER ALL, NOTHING, EVERYONE	*menos*
excluding FORMAL	*excluyendo*
instead of + NOUN / -ING	*en vez de*

Everyone came **except** Philo. **Apart from** the rain, it was a good day.

© Trivium Home School · triviumhomeschool.com

Organising writing

examples, order and conclusions

Giving examples

for example

for example	*por ejemplo*
for instance	*por ejemplo*
such as + NOUN	*como, tales como*
like INFORMAL	*como*
including + NOUN	*incluido*
e.g. IN WRITING	*p. ej.*

Farm animals, **such as** cows and sheep, need fresh water.

Explaining

in other words

in other words	*es decir, o sea*
that is (i.e.)	*es decir*
namely FORMAL	*a saber*
in fact	*de hecho*
actually ⚠ NOT ACTUALMENTE	*en realidad*
indeed FORMAL	*efectivamente*

He's a farmer, **in other words**, he works outdoors all year.

Ordering

first, then, finally

first / firstly	*primero, en primer lugar*
second / secondly	*en segundo lugar*
then / next	*luego, después*
after that	*después de eso*
finally / lastly	*por último*
at first … in the end BEGINNING / RESULT	*al principio … al final*

First we milk the cows; **then** we feed the calves; **finally** we clean the shed.

Concluding

to sum up

in conclusion FORMAL	*en conclusión*
to sum up	*en resumen*
in short	*en pocas palabras*
overall	*en general*
all in all INFORMAL	*en definitiva*
on balance WEIGHING BOTH SIDES	*en conjunto*

On balance, the benefits outweigh the costs.

Spanish speakers, watch out

- *Sin embargo* = **however**, followed by a comma: *However, it rained.*
- *A pesar de* = **despite** (no *of*!); *a pesar de que* = **although**.
- *Aunque* + subjunctive (whether or not) = **even if**; + fact = **although**.
- *Como* = **like** (+ noun), **as** (+ clause or role), or **since** (reason).
- *Para* + verb = **to** + verb, never *for* + verb.

Punctuation with linkers

and, but, so join inside one sentence: *It was late, **but** we stayed.*

however, therefore start a new sentence, with a comma: *It was late. **However**, we stayed.*

Or use a semicolon: *It was late; **however**, we stayed.*

Want more?

Sophia explains **Joining the Pieces** (Philo & Sophia, Lesson 11) and how to weigh an argument in **Two Sides, Weighed on Purpose** (Lesson 31).

© Trivium Home School · triviumhomeschool.com