

Name _____

Conjunctions

A conjunction is a word such as *and*, *but*, or *or* that joins words, phrases, and sentences.

- Use *and* to join related ideas: The snowy owl and snow bunting are arctic birds.
- Use *but* to join contrasting ideas: I like the snow but not the cold.
- Use *or* to suggest a choice: Is that a ringed seal or a hooded seal?

You can use conjunctions to make compound subjects, compound predicates, and compound sentences. Place a comma before the conjunction in a compound sentence.

Compound Subject Frigid cold and deep snow make arctic life difficult.

Compound Predicate Arctic foxes do not hibernate but withstand the cold.

Compound Sentence They feed on live prey, or they can eat remains of a polar bear's meal.

Directions Underline the conjunction(s) in each sentence.

1. The arctic fox makes a burrow in a hill or cliff, but it does not hibernate.
2. It is well adapted for the cold with its furry feet and small, rounded ears.
3. A polar bear is huge but surprisingly fast and can outrun a caribou.

Directions Underline the conjunction in () that completes each sentence.

4. The tundra has very little moisture (or, and) a short growing season.
5. The climate is harsh, (or, but) more than 1,700 kinds of plants live in the Arctic.

Directions Use the conjunction *and*, *but*, or *or* to join each pair of sentences. Write the new sentences. Remember to add a comma.

6. The Arctic is frigid in winter. It is much warmer in summer.

7. Arctic plants must grow quickly. They won't have time to reproduce.



Home Activity Your child learned about conjunctions. Have your child write *and*, *but*, and *or* on index cards and then read a short article, making a tally mark on the appropriate card each time he or she sees that conjunction.

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Directions Write a conjunction on each line to complete the paragraph.

(1) The island features spectacular cliffs _____ volcanic mountains. (2) That odd seabird you observed might be a petrel _____ a fulmar. (3) The climate is extremely cold, _____ many birds are able to live here. (4) They build their nests in the cliffs _____ raise their young. (5) Birds can breed on the island, _____ they need not stay all year. (6) Some birds migrate to warmer winter headquarters, _____ others build up an insulating layer of fat. (7) One bird you are sure to see is McKay’s bunting, which breeds here _____ nowhere else.

Directions Combine the short sentences to make one longer, smoother sentence. Use conjunctions. Write the new sentence.

8. In 1944, voles lived on St. Matthew Island. So did arctic foxes.

9. The Coast Guard introduced 24 female reindeer to the island. They also introduced 5 males.

10. Years before there were reindeer everywhere. Now only a few remained.



Home Activity Your child learned how to use conjunctions in writing. Have your child read about reindeer and write simple sentences about them. Ask your child to find ways to combine some of the related sentences.

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Directions Mark the letter of the word that best completes each sentence.

- Which is bigger: a reindeer ____ an elk?
A however
B also
C but
D or
- Reptiles ____ amphibians do not live in the Arctic.
A and
B if
C because
D but
- It is too cold ____ dry for them there.
A but
B and
C or
D however
- Female reindeer do have antlers, ____ males have much larger ones.
A anyway
B if
C but
D or
- Did the reindeer die of disease ____ hunger?
A because
B also
C but
D or
- Some of the deer survived, ____ most of them starved.
A but
B or
C and
D because
- Forty-one females ____ one male were alive.
A so
B and
C but
D when
- They did not produce young, ____ the herd soon died out.
A and
B or
C until
D but
- This is an unfortunate ____ predictable story.
A for
B or
C but
D because
- The island had too little space ____ not enough predators.
A until
B and
C when
D but



Home Activity Your child prepared for taking tests on conjunctions. Have your child find and circle *and*, *but*, and *or* in ads. Ask your child to explain why each word is used.

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Directions Underline the conjunction in each sentence.

1. Birds and small mammals live on the island.
2. Did a fox or a rabbit make that nest?
3. Count the animals on the island, and we will make a chart.
4. You can count them but cannot determine their sex.
5. We will find out what happened or guess the cause of the die-off.

Directions Underline the conjunction in () that completes each sentence.

6. Nature holds many mysteries, (and, or) scientists want to solve them.
7. Scientists use logic and scientific method, (or, but) imagination is also important.
8. Dr. David Klein had to count (and, or) also weigh reindeer on St. Matthew Island.
9. He knew the reindeer were not killed by diseases (but, or) parasites.
10. Low weight (or, and) missing bone marrow suggested the deer had starved.

Directions Use the conjunction *and*, *but*, or *or* to join each pair of sentences. Write the new sentences. Remember to add a comma.

11. Polar mammals have fur and fat to keep them warm. People have to dress warmly.

12. Layers of clothing trap warm air next to the skin. This keeps people warm in cold weather.



Home Activity Your child reviewed conjunctions. With your child, make a favorite food. Ask your child to talk about the process, using the conjunctions *and*, *but*, and *or* to describe actions and choices in the process.