

Basic conjunctions

Helping students understand what sentences are.

Definition

Conjunctions are words that join other words, phrases, and clauses to one another. This includes words such as and, because, but and so.

Why is this important?

- develops the ability to write extended responses
- checks student comprehension
- develops analytical and deeper thinking
- fosters close reading
- enhances reading comprehension by familiarising students with more complex syntax and sentence structure.

Learning intention

To understand how conjunctions help create more detailed sentences.

"When confronted with complexity in literature, expository text, and original documents, students often have difficulty extracting the text's meaning. Conjunction activities enable students to craft more complex sentences themselves. As they do so, they also develop the ability to understand such sentences when they encounter them in their reading." – J.C. Hochman

Subject	Activities
Any	<p>Because, but, so</p> <p>Give students a sentence stem – the beginning of a sentence – and ask them to turn it into three separate complex sentences, using each conjunction in turn.</p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <p>Finn has excellent survival skills because (to show a reason why)</p> <p>Finn has excellent survival skills, but (to change direction)</p> <p>Finn has excellent survival skills, so (to show an effect)</p>