



Correlative Conjunctions

Tips Sheet

- Definition: A correlative conjunction is a two-part conjunction: it consists of two words or phrases that are used to join sentence elements of equal value.
 - In other words: correlative conjunctions connect words and phrases that carry equal weight in a sentence.
- Uses: When you want to join two independent clauses, two subjects, two antecedents or two prepositional phrases. Basically, when you want to connect two equal parts of a sentence.
- List of common correlative conjunctions:
 - both . . . and
 - Example: “*Both* trees *and* flowers grow colorfully during summer.”
 - not only . . . but also
 - Example: “Her report was not only detailed but also well supported.”
 - not . . . but
 - Example: “Summer school is *not* easy *but* difficult.”
 - either . . . or
 - Example: “I will *either* go for a walk *or* play tennis.”
 - neither . . . nor
 - Example: “Contrary to the weather forecast, it was neither rainy nor foggy outside.”
 - whether . . . or
 - Example: “Have they decided whether they will come with us or stay home?”
 - as . . . as
 - Example: “Bowling isn’t as fun as ping pong.”

Tips & Tricks

- If you have trouble with correlative conjunctions, it may be best simply to memorize them, or else be sure to reference a list of them if you ever have doubts. Note, too, that these pairs never change.
- Remember to keep your structure consistent. In the example “Both trees and flowers grow colorfully during the summer,” the pair used is “both...and...” In this case, “tree” comes after “both” and flowers comes after “and.” In this case, the sentence’s subjects are both placed consistently in relation to the two parts of the conjunction.
 - To remember it simply: both parts of the conjunction should share similar placement.