ESOL E2 – Conjunctions

# of 17 – Welcome

Welcome to this session on collective nouns.

This session will cover:

* What a conjunction is
* How to use common conjunctions

# of 17 – Conjunctions

Conjunctions are joining words. We use them to join sentences together or to make sentences longer.

The most common conjunctions are:

* And
* But
* Because
* Then
* While
* Unless

We will learn how to use each of these conjunctions on the following slides.

# of 17 – And

The conjunction ‘and’ is used to add information.

For example, we might start with the sentence:

“I like to eat popcorn when I am watching a film.”

We can then add some extra information using ‘and’:

“I like to eat popcorn **and** sweets when I am watching a film.”

# of 17 – Using ‘and’ to join sentences together

We can use ‘and’ to make two shorter sentences into one longer one.

For example, we might start with these two sentences:

* I have two sisters.
* I have one brother.

We can use ‘and’ to combine them into one longer sentence:

I have two sisters **and** one brother.

# of 17 – Using ‘and’ to join sentences together - continued

When we use ‘and’ to make two shorter sentences into one longer one, we don’t need to repeat unnecessary words.

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* We went on holiday.
* We stayed in a lovely hotel.

To combine these sentences together, we don’t need to use the pronoun ‘we’ again.

We went on holiday and we stayed in a lovely hotel.

# of 17 – But

The conjunction ‘but’ has different functions.

To show the unexpected, for example:

I love the taste of strawberries, **but** I’m allergic to them!

To give reasons for things, for example:

I like to sing, **but** I’m not very good.

To compare things, for example:

I like vanilla ice cream, **but** not chocolate ice cream.

# of 17 – Because

The conjunction ‘because’ is used to give a reason for something.

For example:

I can’t work on Tuesdays **because** I am looking after my mother.

I want to book the 1st of August off work **because** it is my birthday.

I’m not able to run at the moment **because** I have injured my ankle.

You can put ‘because’ at the beginning of a sentence, or between the two parts of the sentence.

For example:

* I didn’t go on the trip because I was ill.
* Because I was ill, I didn’t go on the trip.

Both of these sentences are correct.

# of 17 – Then

The conjunction ‘then’ is used to tell us what happens next.

For example:

I went shopping, **then** met my friend for a coffee.

He fed the dog, **then** took it for a walk.

Please clear the table, **then** do the washing up.

# of 17 – While

The conjunction ‘while’ is used to show two things happening at the same time.

For example:

I’ll go shopping **while** you play football.

We can talk **while** I cook dinner.

The conjunction ‘while’ can go at the start of a sentence or in the middle. For example:

**While** you were at work, I was doing the gardening.

**While** you were sleeping, I was studying.

# of 17 – Unless

The conjunction ‘unless’ means “except under certain circumstances”.

For example:

**Unless** you eat all your vegetables, you can’t have any chocolate.

I won’t go **unless** the weather improves.

I’m not going **unless** you are.

# of 17 – Question 1

Which of the sentences below is grammatically correct?

1. The children need new coats and scarves.
2. The children need new coats then scarves.
3. Answer: The correct answer is 1. “The children need new coats and scarves” is grammatically correct.

# of 17 – Question 2

True or false: the statement below is grammatically correct.

“I like these sunglasses but they are too expensive.”

Answer: **True**. “I like these sunglasses but they are too expensive” is grammatically correct.

# of 17 – Question 3

Which of the sentences below is grammatically correct?

1. Because it was raining I gave my friend a lift.
2. Unless it was raining I gave my friend a lift.

Answer: The correct answer is **1**. “Because it was raining I gave my friend a lift” is grammatically correct.

# of 17 – Question 4

True or false: the statement below is grammatically correct.

“Plan your essay, then write your first draft.”

Answer: **True**. “Plan your essay, then write your first draft” is grammatically correct.

# of 17 – Question 5

Which of the sentences below is grammatically correct?

1. While you cook dinner, I’ll wash up.
2. Because you cook dinner, I’ll wash up.

Answer: The correct answer is **1**. “While you cook dinner, I’ll wash up.” is grammatically correct.

# of 17 – Question 6

True or false: the statement below is grammatically correct.

“I can’t move this sofa while you help me.”

Answer: **False**. “I can’t move this sofa unless you help me” would be grammatically correct.

# of 17 – End

# Well done. You have completed this session on conjunctions.

# We have covered:

* What a conjunction is
* How to use common conjunctions

# If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, speak to your tutor for more help.