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4.0 OBJECTIVES

In this Unit we shall:

- Discuss Conjunctions as a discourse Marker.
- The use of Conjunctions in day today conversation and sentence formation.
- Show how different discourse markers are used in English language learning.

On Completing the Unit, You should be able to:

- Use Conjunctions correctly and appropriately.
- Build up a sentence and improve the flow and fluency of language with help of Conjunctions.
- The use of discourse marker will be able to make language compact, rich and ornamental.
- Make proper use of Conjunctions in sentence construction and co-ordination of sentence.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Discourse markers are generally referred as Linking words or phrases, sentence connectors and conjunctions. In *Practical English Usage*, Michael Swan defines: ‘A discourse marker as a word or expression which shows the connection between what is being said and the wider context.’ For him, a discourse marker is something that either connects a sentence to what comes before or after, indicates a speaker’s attitude to what he is saying.

Discourse markers are necessary to make a piece of writing coherent and meaningful and bind the text together. They are used less frequently in speech,

unless the speech is very formal. They express different ideas with different relationship. Discourse markers are words that connect sentences and ideas. They have different purposes: to join ideas, and to express attitude what we say or write. Discourse markers have more than one meaning or can be used in different expressions. In this unit, we will discuss conjunctions as a discourse marker.

4.2 DISCOURSE MARKER: CONJUNCTIONS

A conjunction is a term that joins two or more words, phrases or clauses that are called the conjunctions of the conjoining construction. Thus, it is a part of speech that conjoins parts of a sentence. Each conjunction indicates a particular meaning relationship between two or more clauses. They are also called linking words because they link one idea to another one. They are used largely to express similarities and compare two ideas, to present additional or supplementary ideas, to demonstrate a sense of logical sequence. They can be used with independent or dependent clauses. They also indicate cause and effect. Let us discuss them in detail one by one.

4.3 TYPES OF CONJUNCTIONS

In the English language, there are three types of conjunctions:

4.3.1 The coordinating conjunctions

A Coordinating Conjunction links two independent clauses and **connects elements of equal syntactic rank**.

Examples: (1) Kusum and Akash

(2) I play Cricket but I don't play well

(3) Meat or fish

(4) Two and two make four.

The function of coordinating conjunctions is to join words to words, phrases to phrases and clauses to clauses together. **And, But, For, Nor, Or, So,** and **Yet**- these are the seven coordinating conjunctions. Let us understand coordinate Conjunctions:

1. And

And is used to connect two independent clauses, words and phrases in a sentence and also used to add one thing to another:

- Amit and Sunil are good bowlers.
- I like to eat Panipuri and I like to drink Sprite.
- The weather was cold and stormy.
- God made the country and manmade the town.

2. But, Yet

These connectors are used to express opposite or contrasting statements or ideas. Yet expresses a stronger contrast than but.

- He works quickly but neatly.

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- The dress was beautiful but slightly expensive.
- His advice seems strange, yet I believe he is right.
- *She is seventy-two, yet she swims, runs and plays football.*

3. For

It explains reason or purpose of the cause-effect relationship.

- What are you doing for New Year's?
- He needs to be home for his parents.

4. Nor

It expresses similar two items but in the negative sense.

- The discussion was not exciting, nor was it informative.
- She did not return my calls, nor did she respond to any of my texts.

5. Or

It is used to express a choice between two alternatives.

- Don't tell Nishant about his birthday party **or** you'll spoil the surprise.
- *Go or Sit quietly.*
- I must work or starve.

6. So

It indicates the consequence as well as the reason.

- I have just eaten dinner **so**, I am not hungry.
- *I like to read, so my grammar is always on point.*

A comma is used before the coordinating conjunction only when it connects two independent clauses, it is often (but not always).

- **Example:**

He wanted to go to the movies, but I preferred to laze at home.

When a coordinating conjunction is used to join two words or phrases, we do not use a comma.

- **Example:**

- They love to eat Italian and Chinese

When a coordinating conjunction is used with more than two items, the comma before the coordinating conjunction is optional.

- **Example with comma:**

- Nidhi teaches English, German, and Science in school.

- **Example without a comma:**

- Nidhi teaches English, German and Science in school.

4.3.2 The Subordinating Conjunctions

The subordinating conjunction links an independent clause with a subordinate clause. In Subordinating conjunctions, the dependent clause adds extra information to the main clause that is an independent clause which contains both a subject and a verb. The following two patterns are used for coordinat-

ing conjunction: A. Makes the clause it precedes subordinate B. joins that clause to another clause.

A. Independent clause + dependent clause.

OR

B. Dependent clause+, + independent clause.

In English, the most frequent used subordinating conjunctions are: after, although, as, because, before, even if, even though, if, in order to, since, so that, unless, until, when, where, while, why.

The conjunctions **‘so that’ and ‘in order to’**: These Conjunctions indicate the purpose of something:

- We left early so that we wouldn't be late.
- She goes jogging every morning in order to keep fit.

The conjunctions **‘because’, ‘since’, ‘as’**: These conjunctions are used to show the cause or reason.

- I sat down because I was feeling tired.
- Since you have finished your homework, you can help me for dinner.
- Since the new teacher arrived, we all enjoy our work more.
- He went to bed at 9 pm as he had a plane to catch at 6 am.

The conjunctions **‘though’, ‘although’, ‘even though’, ‘even if’**: These conjunctions are used to show contradiction /contrast.

- Though this computer is very old, it is very reliable.
- Even though the weather was sunny, it was cold.
- Although Grandpa is old, he is very fit.
- It is still too hard to find a job even if you are eligible.

The conjunctions **‘if’ and ‘unless’**: These conjunctions are used to show a condition. ‘Unless’ is the opposite of ‘if’:

- I will attend party if he invites me.
- You will be not allowed unless you pay your fees.
- If they don't book now, they won't get good tickets.
- He won't come unless you invite him.

The conjunctions **‘after’, ‘before’, ‘until’**: These conjunctions are used to indicate time.

- He gave everyone a present before he left.
- Before you leave the house, be sure that you have got your backpack.
- The bank is just after the park on the left.
- After I went to bed, I heard a strange noise downstairs.
- I can't wait until the summer holidays begin.

The conjunctions **‘when’, ‘why’, ‘where’**:

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- **When** indicates time meaning 'at the time that',
- **Why** indicates reason,
- **Where** indicates place.
- I will call you when I get home.
- When the wind blows, the branches on the tree bend.
- Everybody knows why she left the job.
- Does anybody know where Mr. Carter lives?

4.3.3 The Correlative Conjunctions:

The correlative conjunctions are used to words and groups of words of equal rank or connotation in a sentence. They always work in pairs. Therefore, the Conjunction is joining together these two statements or clauses of equal position.

Both.... and, either... or, neither ... nor, and not only ... but also are all correlative conjunctions. The correlative Conjunctions are used to indicate two alternatives in general meaning.

1. **Either....Or** indicates any one of them:
 1. You can either stay here or go there.
 2. Either you drive to the airport or you get a taxi.
2. **Neither....nor** indicates none of them:
 1. He didn't get to see the castle, nor did he see the cathedral.
 2. Neither Neeta nor Gita has any problem.
 3. Neither AnerinorJyati likes football.
3. **Not only.....but also** indicates both of them:
 1. Not only Ram but also his brothers are good.
 2. He not only wrote the text but also researched the photographs.
 3. He visited not only Canada, but also America.
4. **Both...And** indicates both of them:
 1. **Both** Ruchi **and** Shachi enjoyed the movie.
 2. The food is both healthy and tasty.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: 1

CHOOSE APPROPRIATE CONJUNCTION

1. Learning geography is hard _____ interesting.
 - A. But
 - B. And
 - C. Or
2. The house is warm _____ comfortable.
 - A. But
 - B. Or
 - C. And

**Discourse Marker
(Conjunctions)**

3. Would you like pasta _____ rice?
A. But
B. And
C. Or
4. We bought milk, eggs, cheese _____ butter.
A. But
B. or
C. And
5. Sunita ate an entire cake, _____ she was still hungry.
A. Yet
B. And
C. Or
6. Let's write down the address _____ we don't forget it.
A. Yet
B. So
C. Or
7. *She doesn't eat cake, _____ does she eat biscuits.*
A. Nor
B. Yet
C. So
8. *He goes to the park every Sunday, _____ He loves to watch the ducks on the lake.*
A. So
B. For
C. Yet
9. She won't have sent the email _____.
A. But
B. For
C. Yet
10. She spoke _____ well that everybody was pleased.
A. So
B. But
C. Yet

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: 2

FILL IN THE BLANKS USING ONE OF THE CONJUNCTIONS FROM THE LIST.(because,either...or, since, both.... and, why, In order to, though, but, Sothat, neither...nor)

1. I like him _____ he is very honest.
2. You can _____ walk to college _____ take the bus.
3. He went to bed _____ it was late.
4. He has to take a taxi _____ he wouldn't be late for his class.
5. They went to bed early _____ get up early in the morning.
6. They have visited my house _____ they didn't have much time.
7. She can speak English and Spanish fluently, _____ his French is not so good.
8. He is _____ a ballerina _____ a tap dance.
9. _____ you _____ I know the truth what has actually happened.
10. I know not _____ he has left the class.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: 3

FILL IN THE BLANKS USING ONE OF THE CONJUNCTIONS FROM THE LIST.

(since,before, Until, and, until, after, when, Even... if,while, unless)

1. They arrived _____ he had gone.
2. Wait _____ he returns
3. Time _____ tide wait for no man.
4. He has waited _____ the rain stopped.
5. _____ I have finished my work, I will go outside.
6. _____ he has no money, he can't go to the movie.
7. _____ I go to work, I do exercise everyday at least an hour.
8. He will not tell secret _____ she insists a lot.
9. I saw him _____ he was going to the market.
10. She will not come _____ you invite her.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: 4

JOIN EACH PAIR OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE BY MEANS OF A SUITABLE CONJUNCTION. MAKE SUCH CHANGES AS ARE NECESSARY.

1. I do not like Pizza. I do like Pasta.(But)
2. I did not study. I failed in the semester exam.(So)
3. My mother was very busy. She cooked a great meal for us.(Though)
4. He lived in France for two years. He can hardly speak any French. (Even though)
5. My brother took digital camera with him. He could take photos during his trip.(So...that)

6. One should exercise regularly. Keep their body healthy and fit.(In Order to)
7. I don't believe what he has said. I will let you go this time.(Though)
8. You will win the race. You work hard.(If)
9. He was humble. He was honest.(But)
10. My brother nor my sister will attend the birthday party.(Neither.....nor)

4.4 KEY WORDS

1. **Discourse marker:** A word or phrase whose function is to organize discourse into segments.
2. **Discourse:** is used to refer to a piece or unit of writing or speech respectively that is longer than, such as a sentence or an utterance.
3. **Clause:** A clause is a minimal grammatical structure that has meaning in its own right, consists of a subject and verb and often an object too.
4. **Independent Clause:** An independent clause is a clause that can stand alone as a sentence.
5. **Dependent Clause:** A **dependent clause** is a group of words that has a subject and a verb, but it does not contain complete meaning.

4.5 LET US SUM UP

In this unit, you have learnt

- The function of conjunctions in English language learning.
- Usages of Conjunctions.
- Function of conjunction as a discourse marker in English language learning and their different uses with different connotation.
- Use of discourse marker in logically constructed sentences and the use of connections between the different sentences and paragraphs in day today conversation and give meaning to it.

4.6 BOOKS SUGGESTED

1. *Contemporary English Grammar Structures and Composition* by David Green. Macmillan, 2015.
2. *High School English Grammar and Composition* by P.C. Wren and H. Martin. S Chand & Company Limited, 1995.
3. *Learners English Grammar and Composition* by N.D.V. Prasada Rao. S. Chand Publishing, 2000.

Answers

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: 1

Que. No.	Answer	Que. No.	Answer
1	A	6	B
2	C	7	A
3	C	8	B
4	C	9	C

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English**

5

A

10

A

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: 2

Que. No.	Answer	Que. No.	Answer
1	Because	6	though
2	either...or	7	but
3	Since	8	neither...nor
4	So	9	both...and
5	in order to	10	why

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: 3

Que. No.	Answer	Que. No.	Answer
1	After	6	since
2	Until	7	before
3	And	8	even if
4	Until	9	while
5	When	10	unless

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: 4

1. I do not like Pizza, but I do like Pasta.
2. I did not study so I failed in the semester exam.
3. Although my mother was very busy, she cooked a great meal for us.
4. Even though He lived in France for two years, he can hardly speak any French.
5. My brother took digital camera with him so that he could take photos during his trip.
6. One should exercise regularly in order to keep their body healthy and fit.
7. Though I don't believe what he has said, I will let you go this time.
8. You will win the race if you work hard.
9. He was not only humble but also honest.
10. Neither my brother nor my sister will attend the birthday party.