

# 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.

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

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**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.



# Conjunctions

**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.

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

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**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.