Testing Your Understanding: Conjunctions
An answer key follows these exercises. Read the following sentences for meaning and fill in (from list*) the appropriate **coordinating conjunction**. Be careful that the conjunction is functioning as a connector between two independent clauses and not between two subjects or verbs. Do not add, change, or delete any other words; just fill in the blanks and make any punctuation corrections. *List of coordinating conjunctions: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. Each conjunction is used only once.*

1. Susie’s stomach was growling ____ she decided to eat lunch.
2. Every student in the class received an “A” grade on the project _____ they had all done excellent work.
3. Vanessa and Corina had planned to spend their vacation swimming and beach combing ____, they did just that.
4. We all thought that Ted would be elected class president _____ he lost.
5. None of the student athletes voted for him ____ did the students in the music department.
6. All of our closest friends said they had cast their votes for him ____ he didn’t even come close to winning.
7. Ted didn’t feel bad about losing ____ he didn’t show it anyway.

Read the following sentence pairs carefully and choose the sentence which is correct.

8. (a) You should decide whether to study or to sleep.
   (b) You should decide whether to study or you are going to sleep.
9. (a) If I’m correcting papers this weekend, you’re working, too.
   (b) If I’m correcting papers this weekend, then you’re working, too.
10. (a) I believe not only that she is the best candidate, but also a great inspiration.
    (b) I believe not only that she is the best candidate, but also that she is a great inspiration.

Read the following sentences for meaning and fill in (from the list* below) the subordinating conjunction which best expresses the relationship between the two clauses. *List of subordinating conjunctions: even though, whenever, rather than, while, because. (Each conjunction is used once.*)
11. _______the orchestra warmed up, the house manager briefed the ushers on the seating arrangements.

12. Everyone had a wonderful time at the party _______the karaoke machine wasn’t working.

13. _______he had already broken his arm twice, Jeff wore an arm brace when he performed heavy labor.

14. I giggle like a teenager _______I am around Brett.

15. _______ driving to the conference alone, I decided to join the others on the bus.

Read the following sentences for meaning and fill in (from the list* below) the conjunctive adverb which best expresses the relationship between the two clauses. *List of conjunctive adverbs: therefore, moreover, however. (Each conjunction is used once.)

16. We were pleased you could attend our wedding; _______, we were sorry you missed the reception.

17. Living near the local high school makes it difficult to get out of the driveway between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekdays. _________, it makes it difficult to keep the yard clear of litter.

18. I have completed all the required training; _________, I should receive the certificate.

Answers below:

Answer Key:

Note: sentences 1-7 are all made up of two independent clauses linked by a coordinating conjunction which is preceded* by a comma.

1. Susie’s stomach was growling, so she decided to eat lunch.
2. Every student in the class received an “A” grade on the project, for they had all done excellent work.

3. Vanessa and Corina had planned to spend their vacation swimming and beach combing, and they did just that.*(note comma placement)

4. We all thought that Ted would be elected class president, but he lost.

5. None of the student athletes voted for him, nor did the students in the music department.

6. All of our closest friends said they had cast their votes for him, yet he didn’t even come close to winning.

7. Ted didn’t feel bad about losing, or he didn’t show it anyway.

Note: Correlative conjunctions connect words, phrases, or clauses of equal grammatical value.

8. (a) You should decide whether to study or to sleep. (both infinitives)
   (b) You should decide whether to study or you are going to sleep.

9. (a) If I’m correcting papers this weekend, you’re working, too.
   (b) If I’m correcting papers this weekend, then you’re working, too.
   (correlating conjunctions always come in pairs)

10. (a) I believe not only that she is the best candidate, but also a great inspiration.
   (b) I believe not only that she is the best candidate, but also that she is a great inspiration. (both correlative conjunctions are followed by subordinate clauses)

Subordinating conjunctions

11. While the orchestra warmed up, the house manager briefed the ushers on the seating arrangements.

12. Everyone had a wonderful time at the party even though the karaoke machine wasn’t working

13. Because he had already broken his arm twice, Jeff wore an arm brace when he performed heavy labor.

14. I giggle like a teenager whenever I am around Brett.
15. **Rather than** driving to the conference alone, I decided to join the others on the bus.

**Conjunctive adverbs:**

16. We were pleased you could attend our wedding; **however**, we were sorry you missed the reception.

17. Living near the local high school makes it difficult to get out of the driveway between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekdays. **Moreover**, it makes it difficult to keep the yard clear of litter.

18. I have completed all the required training; **therefore**, I should receive the certificate.