

LESSON FIVE

5-1 CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS: *Either . . . Or*

■ Connecting Similar Structures ■

A You must tell the truth. You must go to jail.

You must either tell the truth or go to jail. (connecting two verb phrases)

B A person is honest. A person is dishonest.

A person is either honest or dishonest. (connecting two adjectives)

C I will see you at home. I will see you in jail.

I will see you either at home or in jail. (connecting two prepositional phrases)

D I can call your father. I can call your mother.

I can call either your father or your mother. (connecting two noun objects)

1. The correlative conjunctions *either . . . or* mean *one or the other*. They indicate a choice or alternative and connect two affirmative ideas.
2. When two verbs or verb phrases are connected with auxiliaries, *either* follows the auxiliary verb. The auxiliary is not repeated after *or*.

You must either tell the truth or go to jail.

He has either lost his watch or misplaced it.

She is either crying or laughing very hard.

When there are two auxiliary verbs, *either* follows the first one.

(1) (2)

You have either been sleeping or watching television.

3. When using *either . . . or* to connect similar structures, remember to place *either* as close as possible to the structure it is identifying.

Correct: *I can call either your father or your mother.*

Incorrect: *I can either call your father or your mother.*

4. Singular subjects joined by *either . . . or* take a singular verb after *or*. Plural subjects joined by *either . . . or* take a plural verb after *or*.

Either my roommate or I am going to go to the party.

Either my parents or my sisters are going to visit me this summer.

If one subject is singular and the other subject is plural, the verb agrees with the subject after *or*, that is, the subject closest to the verb.

Either my parents or my sister is going to visit me.

Either my sister or my parents are going to visit me.

5. Note that in sentences A to D, the subjects of the two sentences are the same. It is *not* possible to connect similar structures if the subjects of the sentences are different. Therefore, the similar structures in the following sentences cannot be connected.

You will tell the truth. I will report you to the police.

Incorrect: *You will either tell the truth or report you to the police.*

■ Connecting Two Complete Sentences ■

- A You must tell the truth. You must go to jail.

Either you must tell the truth, or you must go to jail.

- B A person is honest. A person is dishonest.

Either a person is honest, or a person is dishonest.

- C I will see you at home. I will see you in jail.

Either I will see you at home, or I will see you in jail.

- D I can call your father. I can call your mother.

Either I can call your father, or I can call your mother.

- E You will tell the truth. I will report you to the police.

Either you will tell the truth, or I will report you to the police.

1. When two complete sentences are connected, a comma follows the first sentence.

Either the baby is sick, or he is tired.

A comma is not needed when similar structures are connected.

The baby is either sick or tired.

2. Note that in sentences A to D, the subjects of the two sentences are the same, but the subjects in the E sentences are different. It is possible to connect two complete sentences even if the subjects of the sentences are different.

Exercise 1

Connect the sentences, using either . . . or in two ways.

First, connect the sentences by using similar structures.

Then connect them in complete sentences.

Example: I will study during the summer quarter. I will take a vacation.

I will either study during the summer or take a vacation.

Either I will study during the summer quarter, or I will take a vacation.

1. Jim and Bob jog every morning. They do push-ups.

2. Jim runs around the park. He runs around the block.

3. They will make the U.S. Olympic team. They will be very disappointed.

4. Bob won a gold medal. He won a silver medal four years ago. I'm not sure.

5. Jim is running. He is doing push-ups at the moment.

6. He will represent the United States this year. He will have to wait four more years.
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7. Peggy Fleming was an Olympic ice skater. She was an Olympic skier.
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8. My brother is going to the next Olympic games. My sisters are going.
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5-2 CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS: *Neither . . . Nor*

■ Connecting Similar Structures ■

- A Money is not important to me. Success is not important to me.

Neither money nor success is important to me. (connecting two noun subjects)

- B I don't want fortune. I don't want fame.

I want neither fame nor fortune. (connecting two noun objects)

- C This coffee is not good. It isn't hot.

This coffee is neither good nor hot. (connecting two adjectives)

- D Your son isn't outside. He isn't inside.

Your son is neither outside nor inside. (connecting two adverbs)

- E Sue has not arrived. She has not called.

Sue has neither arrived nor called. (connecting two verbs)

1. The correlative conjunctions *neither . . . nor* mean *not one or the other*. They connect two negative ideas.

2. When two verbs or verb phrases are connected with auxiliaries, *neither* follows the auxiliary verb. The auxiliary is not repeated after *nor*.

I have neither finished my composition nor completed the reading assignments.

Sue is neither coming nor planning to call.

When there are two auxiliary verbs, *neither* follows the first.

(1)

(2)

I have neither been sleeping nor watching television.

3. When *neither . . . nor* connect similar structures, *neither* is placed as close as possible to the structure it is identifying.

Correct: *I am neither happy nor sad today.*

Incorrect: *I neither am happy nor sad today.*

4. Singular subjects joined by *neither . . . nor* take a singular verb after *nor*. Plural subjects joined by *neither . . . nor* take a plural verb after *nor*.

Neither Maria nor Jabria is coming to the party.

Neither the teachers nor the students want an extra week of classes.

If one subject is singular and the other subject is plural, the verb agrees with the subject after *nor*, that is, the subject closest to the verb.

Neither the director nor the teachers want an extra week of classes.

Neither the teachers nor the director wants an extra week of classes.

5. *Neither . . . nor* are usually used to connect words and phrases that are similar in structure. They are rarely used to connect complete sentences.

Exercise 2 ■■ Connect the sentences, using *neither . . . nor*.

Example: Sara isn't studying this quarter. She isn't working this quarter.

Sara is neither studying this quarter nor working. OR

Sara is neither studying nor working this quarter.

- Our test wasn't long. It wasn't difficult.
- I haven't been getting very high grades. I haven't been getting very low grades.
- I didn't review very much. I didn't study very hard.
- Minai hasn't passed a test yet. Jose hasn't passed a test yet.

5. The next test won't cover Chapter 1. It won't cover Chapter 2.
6. The bank wouldn't cash my check. The supermarket wouldn't cash it.
7. I haven't gotten a student I.D. yet. I don't have a U.S. driver's license.
8. I don't have any food to eat. I don't have any money to buy food.
9. Nevertheless, I'm not sad about this. I'm not worried about it.
10. I won't ask my parents for money. I won't borrow any money from my friends.

■ 5-3 CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS: *Not Only . . . but Also*

■ Connecting Similar Structures ■

A Tom has a car. He has a motorcycle.

Tom has not only a car but also a motorcycle. (connecting two noun objects)

B He is a fast driver. He is a good driver.

He is not only a fast driver but also a good one. (connecting two adjectives + nouns)

C He repairs motorcycles. He teaches motorcycle repair.

He not only repairs motorcycles but also teaches motorcycle repair. (connecting two verbs)

1. When *not only . . . but also* are used to connect similar structures, *not only* and *but also* are placed as close as possible to the structures they identify.

Correct: *It is not only a big apartment but also an inexpensive one.*

Incorrect: *It not only is a big apartment but also an inexpensive one.*

2. Singular subjects joined by *not only . . . but also* take a singular verb after *but also*. Plural subjects joined by *not only . . . but also* take a plural verb after *but also*.

Not only Maria but also Jabria is coming to the party.

Not only the teachers but also the students want one week less of classes.

If one subject is singular and the other subject is plural, the verb agrees with the subject after *but also*, that is, the subject closest to the verb.

Not only the director but also the teachers want one week less of classes.

Not only the teachers but also the director wants one week less of classes.

■ Connecting Complete Sentences ■

A Tom has a car. He has a motorcycle.

Not only does Tom have a car, but also he has a motorcycle.

Not only does Tom have a car, but he also has a motorcycle.

B He is a fast driver. He is a good driver.

Not only is he a fast driver, but also he is a good one.

Not only is he a fast driver, but he also is a good one.

C He repairs motorcycles. He teaches motorcycle repair.

Not only does he repair motorcycles, but also he teaches motorcycle repair.

Not only does he repair motorcycles, but he also teaches motorcycle repair.

1. When *not only . . . but also* are used to connect two complete sentences, *but also* can be kept together.

We need a new stove. We need a new refrigerator.

Not only do we need a new stove, but also we need a new refrigerator.

But also can also be separated. Either of the following patterns can be used.

but + subject + also: Not only do we need a new stove, but we also need a new refrigerator.

but + subject + verb + also: Not only is our stove old, but it is also ugly.

2. When *not only . . . but also* are used to connect two complete sentences, the subject and auxiliary verb must be inverted after *not only*.

Correct: *Not only do the children need new clothes, but they also need new bookbags.*

Incorrect: *Not only the children need new clothes, but they also need new bookbags.*

3. When two complete sentences are connected, a comma follows the first sentence.

Not only is the baby sick, but he is also tired.

A comma is not needed when similar structures are connected.

The baby is not only sick but also tired.

Exercise 3

Complete each dialog, using not only at the beginning of each sentence.

Example: A: That book is boring.

B: Is it difficult too?

A: Yes. Not only is the book boring, but it is also difficult.

1. A: I enjoy living in another country.

B: Do you enjoy learning a second language too?

A: Yes. _____

2. A: Portuguese is a beautiful language to me.

B: Is it easy for you to learn?

A: Yes. _____

3. A: The customs here are different.

B: Are they interesting?

A: Yes. _____

4. A: The Brazilian people are friendly.

B: Are they hospitable?

A: Yes. _____

5. A: I love Brazilian music.

B: Do you love Brazilian art?

A: Yes. _____

6. A: I have traveled all over Brazil.

B: Have you been to other parts of South America?

A: Yes. _____

7. A: I have met many Brazilian people.

B: Have you met many Argentinians?

A: Yes. _____

8. A: I like Brazilian food.

B: Do you like Argentinian food?

A: Yes. _____

9. A: My parents are coming to Rio de Janeiro next month.

B: Are they bringing your younger sister?

A: Yes. _____

10. A: My sister wants to see me.

B: Does she want to stay with you?

A: Yes. _____

5-4 CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS: *Both . . . And*

■ Connecting Similar Structures ■

A Our grammar teacher is sick today. Our reading teacher is sick today.

Both our grammar teacher and our reading teacher are sick today. (connecting two noun subjects)

B I have been having trouble with grammar. I have been having trouble with reading.

I have been having trouble with both grammar and reading. (connecting two noun objects)

C Mike jogs every morning. He does push-ups every morning.

Mike both jogs and does push-ups every morning. (connecting two verbs)

D There is more food on the table. There is more food in the refrigerator.

There is more food both on the table and in the refrigerator. (connecting two prepositional phrases)

1. Subjects joined by *both . . . and* always take a plural verb.

My mother is coming. My father is coming.

Both my mother and my father are coming.

My sister is coming. My brothers are coming.

Both my sister and my brothers are coming.

My brothers are arriving tonight. My sister is arriving tonight.

Both my brothers and my sister are arriving tonight.

2. *Both . . . and* are usually used to connect words and phrases that are similar in structure. They are rarely used to connect complete sentences.

Exercise 4

Complete each pair of sentences truthfully. Then use *both . . . and* to connect each pair of sentences.

1. I enjoy _____.

I enjoy _____.

2. _____ is an excellent student.

_____ is an excellent student.

3. I go out on _____
I go out on _____.
4. I have always wanted to see _____
I have always wanted to see _____.
5. In this class we have _____
In this class we have _____.
6. I hope that one day I _____
I hope that one day I _____.
7. _____ helps (or help) me when I have a problem.
_____ helps (or help) me when I have a problem.
8. My mother always _____
My mother always _____.

Exercise 5

First, read each pair of sentences and underline the structures you will connect. Then connect the sentences, using the correlative conjunctions in parentheses.

Example: My husband's family doesn't live near us. My family doesn't live near us. (neither . . . nor)

Neither my husband's family nor my family lives near us.

- Dave and Nancy will have their wedding in June. They will have it in July. (either . . . or)
- Dave's brother can't come. His sisters can't come. (neither . . . nor)



3. His brother is living in another country this year. His sisters are living in another country this year. (both . . . and)
4. They have invited the members of their family. They have invited their friends. (not only . . . but also)
5. After the ceremony, the guests can dance. They can walk around the garden. (either . . . or)
6. They do not plan to serve beer. They do not plan to serve whiskey. (neither . . . nor)
7. Dave's parents are against having liquor at the wedding. Nancy's parents are against having liquor at the wedding. (both . . . and)
8. For their honeymoon, they're planning to visit Spain. They're planning to visit Italy. (not only . . . but also)
9. In Italy, they will drive around the country. They will tour on bicycles. (either . . . or)
10. Dave says that Nancy is beautiful. He says she is intelligent. (both . . . and)

Exercise 6

Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If the sentence is incorrect, find the mistake and correct it.

Examples: Either we leave now, or we shouldn't go at all. Correct

My sister ^{has} Either those pages or this page ~~have~~ the information. Incorrect

1. Not only many television programs are boring, but they also contain a lot of violence.
2. Both my roommate and I are against watching too much television.
3. Neither the movies nor TV are good for young children.
4. Parents either should check what their children watch or not allow their children to watch TV at all.
5. Not only do I rarely watch TV, but I also hardly ever go to the movies.
6. My mother can neither read or speak a foreign language.
7. Either Jan or Lee are coming.
8. The neighbors must have been either arguing or celebrating.
9. Korea produces not only cars but also electronic goods.
10. They neither eat bread nor potatoes.

Exercise 7

Connect similar structures in each pair of sentences, using the appropriate correlative conjunctions. More than one correlative conjunction may be appropriate for some sentences.

Example: I will have coffee. I will have tea.

I will have either coffee or tea.

1. Coffee is not good for some people. Tea is not good for some people.
2. Coffee contains caffeine. Tea contains caffeine.
3. Coffee keeps some people awake. It makes them nervous.
4. My father doesn't drink coffee. My mother doesn't drink it.
5. For some people, coffee keeps them awake. For these people it helps them relax.
6. I have always preferred hot chocolate. I have always preferred cold milk.
7. When I was at home, I never drank coffee. I never drank tea.
8. My friend must have several cups of coffee in the morning. His wife must have several cups of coffee in the morning.
9. They prefer black coffee, so they don't take cream. They never have sugar.
10. They drink coffee in the morning. They drink coffee throughout the day.
11. They are nervous. They are irritable.
12. Coffee has been a popular beverage for thousands of years. Tea has been a popular beverage for thousands of years.
13. Most restaurants offer coffee. Most restaurants offer decaffeinated coffee for people who can't have caffeine.
14. Coffee has risen in cost over the past few years. Tea has risen in cost over the past few years.

Exercise 8

With another student, write a sentence about each topic, using correlative conjunctions. Try to use all the different correlative conjunctions you have learned in this lesson.

1. computers
2. friendship
3. crime
4. AIDS
5. Hollywood
6. flying
7. rock music
8. finding a job
9. politics
10. English