

# 35 Conjunctions

Conjunctions are used to link single words, phrases or clauses. It is necessary to distinguish between co-ordinating conjunctions (35.1), subordinating conjunctions (35.2) and conjunctions used with inversion (35.3), because each type of conjunction has a different effect on the word order of the sentence.

## 35.1 Co-ordinating conjunctions

Co-ordinating conjunctions link single words, phrases or clauses of equal status. They do not affect the word order of the clause they introduce. There are two categories of co-ordinating conjunctions: simple or one-word conjunctions (e.g. **und**, *and*) and double conjunctions (e.g. **sowohl ... als (auch)**, *both ... and*).

■ **35.1.1** The most common simple co-ordinating conjunctions are:

<b>aber</b> <i>but, however</i>	<b>sondern</b> <i>but, on the contrary</i>
<b>denn</b> <i>for</i>	<b>und</b> <i>and</i>
<b>oder</b> <i>or</i>	

Other simple co-ordinating conjunctions are **beziehungsweise** (*or*), **jedoch** (*but*) and **sowie** (*as well as*).

- **aber** (*but, however*)  
Beate ist noch nicht hier, *Beate hasn't arrived yet but*  
**aber** sie kommt gleich. *she'll be here soon.*

Where **aber** translates as *however* it is frequently placed after the subject or the verb:

Die Angestellten gingen	<i>The employees went home.</i>
nach Hause, der Chef <b>aber</b>	<i>However, the boss had to</i>
musste ( <i>or</i> : musste <b>aber</b> )	<i>continue working for</i>
noch eine Stunde länger	<i>another hour.</i>
arbeiten.	

- **denn** (*for, because*)  
Sie war traurig, **denn**  
niemand hatte sie  
eingeladen. *She was sad, for/because  
nobody had invited her.*
- **oder** (*or*)  
Möchtest du Tee **oder**  
Kaffee? *Would you like tea or coffee?*  
Lass den Hund in Ruhe,  
**oder** er beißt dich noch. *Leave the dog alone or he'll  
bite you.*
- **sondern** (*but, on the contrary*) after negative statements  
Wir hatten uns nicht für  
heute, **sondern** für  
morgen verabredet. *We didn't arrange to meet  
today, but tomorrow.*  
Er war überhaupt nicht  
krank, **sondern** sehr gesund. *He wasn't ill at all, on the  
contrary he was very well.*
- **und** (*and*)  
Sie möchte einen neuen  
Fernseher, **und** er will ein  
neues Auto. *She would like a new TV  
and he wants a new car.*

■ **35.1.2** Common double co-ordinating conjunctions are:

entweder ... oder	<i>either ... or</i>
nicht nur ... sondern auch	<i>not only ... but also</i>
sowohl ... als (auch)	<i>both ... and</i>
weder ... noch	<i>neither ... nor</i>

- **entweder ... oder** (*either ... or*)  
Wir fahren **entweder** in  
die Schweiz **oder** nach  
Österreich. *We go either to Switzerland  
or to Austria.*

When **entweder** is placed first, subject and verb normally change position (inversion), but normal word order is maintained after **oder**: