Common errors in the use of some conjunctions

Incorrect: The car either dashed against a goat or a donkey.
Correct: The car dashed against **either** a goat **or** a donkey. (either + noun + or + noun)

Incorrect: Neither he would eat nor allow us to eat.
Correct: He would **neither** eat **nor** allow us to eat. (neither + verb + nor + verb)

The correlatives **either...or, neither...nor, both...and** and **not only...but also** must be placed immediately before the words which they relate to.

Incorrect: Though he was poor but he was happy.
Correct: **Though** he was poor **he** was happy.
Correct: He was poor **but** he was happy.

One conjunction is enough to join two clauses.

Incorrect: He asked that what was my name.
Correct: He asked **what my name was**.

Incorrect: He enquired that where was the office.
Correct: He enquired **where the office was**.

Students often make the mistake of using the relative pronoun **that** before interrogatives like **what, where, when, whether and why**.

Incorrect: Do it carefully lest you may not make a mistake.
Correct: Do it carefully **lest** you make a mistake.

**Lest** means **that...not**, and, therefore, it will be wrong to add another **not** in the following clause. It should also be noted that the only auxiliary verb that can be used after lest is **should**.

Incorrect: He climbed up a tree **such as** to get a good view of the procession.
Correct: He climbed up a tree **so as** to get a good view of the procession.

**Such as** indicates result. **So as** indicates purpose.