A compound sentence has two or more coordinate clauses (i.e., independent clauses of equal rank) joined together by a coordinating conjunction.

Study the following examples carefully:

The night is dark and I am far from home.

First coordinate clause: The night is dark
Second coordinate clause: I am far from home
Conjunction: and

I laugh, I run, I leap, I sing for joy. (4 coordinate clauses)

The coordinating clauses of a compound or compound-complex sentence can be joined by four kinds of coordinating conjunctions.

1. Cumulative

A cumulative conjunction simply adds one clause to another. Examples are: and, as well as, not only…but also, nor etc.

- He is a fool and you are a bigger fool.
- He is a writer and a thinker too.
- Smoking is injurious to the health of the smoker as well as those around him.
- Winston Churchill was not only a politician but also a great writer.
- He cannot speak nor can he hear. (Note the inverted word order in the clause ‘can he hear’.)

2. Alternative

An alternative conjunction presents two alternatives before us. Examples are: either…or, neither…nor, otherwise, or else etc.

- You should neither borrow nor lend.
- You can have either tea or coffee.
- You must submit the report now, otherwise you will be punished.
- Come away from the window, or else they will see you.

3. Adversative

We use an adversative conjunction to draw a contrast between two facts. Examples are: but, still, yet, whereas etc.

- He is lazy whereas his brother is very hard working.

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She is beautiful but not intelligent.
I tried my best, still I couldn’t solve the problem.
He is rich, yet he looks miserable.

4. **Illative**

An illative conjunction draws an inference from a statement or fact. Examples are: so, therefore, for etc.

He has influence, so he may get a verdict in his favor.
He may see your point for he is a reasonable man.
He took things easy, naturally he couldn’t pass the examination.
The two angles are equal, therefore the opposite angles must be equal.