There are two main kinds of conjunctions:

**Coordinating conjunctions**

**Subordinating conjunctions**

*Coordinating conjunctions* join two clauses or sentences of equal rank. Here both clauses are capable of being **principal clauses** if they appear as such in separate sentences.

A **subordinating conjunction** joins a **principal or main clause** and a **subordinate clause**. Note that a subordinate clause cannot stand on its own and doesn’t make complete sense.

**Coordinating conjunctions**

The most common coordinating conjunctions are: *and, but, or, nor, either...or, neither...nor, yet, not only... but also..., both...and.*

Coordinating conjunctions are of four kinds:

**Additive (cumulative or copulative) conjunctions**

An **additive conjunction** merely adds one statement to another. It doesn’t express ideas such as contrast, choice or inference. Examples are: *and, also, too, as well as, both...and, not only...but also...*

He walked into the room **and** sat on the sofa. (Here the additive conjunction and merely adds the clauses ‘he walked into the room’ and ‘he sat on the sofa’.)

He was **not only** abused **but also** beaten. (Here the additive conjunction not only...but also... joins the two clauses ‘he was abused’ and ‘he was beaten’.)

These lessons are **both** free **and** useful.

**Adversative coordinating conjunctions**

They express a contrast between two statements in a sentence. Examples are: *but, nevertheless, however, whereas, only, still etc.*

He is poor **but** he is honest.

Wise men love truth, **whereas** fools shun it.

The captain was annoyed, **still** he kept quiet.

She was late, **still** she was not punished.

**Alternative conjunctions**
Alternative conjunctions express a choice between two alternatives. Examples are: **or, nor, either...or, neither...nor, otherwise, else etc.**

He is **either** a fool **or** a rogue.  
You must leave this place at once **or** you will have to face the consequences.  
**Neither** a borrower, **nor** a lender be.  
He knows nothing about this work, **neither** does he try to learn anything about it.

**Inferential or illative conjunctions**

These conjunctions introduce some inference. Examples are: **therefore, for, so etc.**

Work hard, **for** nobody can succeed without hard work.  
He was lazy, **therefore**, he failed.