Study Guide for Conjunctions

• Conjunctions are joining words. They join ideas together in a meaningful way.

Coordinating conjunctions include the following: and, but, for, yet, so, or, nor.

• Coordinating conjunctions join words that are the same.
  Nouns—Jack and Jill; tea or coffee
  Adjectives—tired but happy; ripe and juicy; yellow or orange
  Adverbs—here and there; fast or slow; quickly but carefully
  Pronouns—she and I; us or them; no one but me

• Coordinating conjunctions join phrases.
  Sue went up the steps and into the house.
  They battled across the raging river and up the steep, slippery bank.

• Coordinating conjunctions join simple sentences. These are now compound sentences.
  Jack is leaving now, but he’ll be back later.
  Sarah is going to Michigan, and I’m going with her.
  It is getting dark, so I’ll walk home with you.

Correlative conjunctions include the following: whether . . . or, both . . . and,
  as . . . as, either . . . or, neither . . . nor, not . . . but, not only . . . but also.

• Correlative conjunctions are used in pairs.
  I can’t decide whether to go to the skate park or to the movies.
  Both Angela and Carol left early. I will come as soon as I can.

Subordinating conjunctions include the following: after, as, although, before,
  once, because, then, though, therefore, until, unless, where, wherever, when,
  whenever, while

• Subordinating conjunctions are used to link a subordinate clause to a principal clause.
  She was late because she lost her way.
  I will wait until my friends arrive.
  When the light went out, we lit a candle.
  I’ll look after the animals while you’re away.