

A **conjunction** is a word used to link or 'conjoin' words or phrases into a coherent whole. There are two classes of conjunctions: coordinate and subordinate.

coordinating conjunctions

A coordinating conjunction 'coordinates' two equivalent elements in a sentence, that is, words belonging to the same grammatical category (nouns + nouns, verbs + verbs, independent clause + independent clause, etc.). The most commonly used coordinating conjunctions in French are:

mais
ou
et
donc
or
ni ... ni
car
puis

Edouard n'aime **ni** le barbecue **ni** les hamburgers.
Tex fume des cigarettes **et** boit du vin rouge.

but
or
and
so, thus
so, now
neither ... nor
for
then

Edouard likes **neither** barbecue **nor** hamburgers.
Tex smokes cigarettes **and** drinks red wine.

subordinating conjunctions

A subordinating conjunction links an independent clause to a dependent clause. In other words, a subordinating conjunction joins two unequivalent clauses (independent and dependent). An independent clause is any clause that can stand alone to form a grammatical sentence. A dependent clause, on the other hand, cannot stand alone and thus 'depends' on the main clause in order to form a complete thought.

The most commonly used subordinate conjunctions:

que
pendant que
quand
lorsque
depuis que
tandis que
puisque
parce que

Il est évident **que** Tex fume trop.
(dependent)(independent)

that
as, while
when
when
since (indicating time)
while, whereas
since
because

It is obvious **that** Tex smokes too much.

