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** but
- **ou** or
- **et** and
- **donc** so, thus
- **or** so, now
- **ni ... ni** neither ... nor
- **car** for
- **puis** then

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

**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** that
- **pendant que** as, while
- **quand** when
- **lorsque** when
- **depuis que** since (indicating time)
- **tandis que** while, whereas
- **puisque** since
- **parce que** because

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

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