

# CONJUNCTIONS vs PREPOSITIONS

## STUDY GUIDE

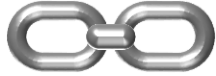
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# I. What are coordinating Conjunctions and what do they do?

A. Coordinating Conjunctions are the parts of speech that allow us to connect words-to-words, phrases-to-phrases, and clauses-to-clauses in a grammatically equal way.

WORD



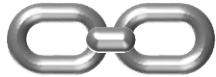
WORD

*Mom*

and

*Dad*

PHRASE



PHRASE

*In the morning*

and

*In the afternoon*

CLAUSE



CLAUSE

*I work nights*

and

*I sleep during the day*

B. **Grammatically equal** means that when we connect ideas in a list of two or more, they are parallel structures. This means that each item in the list must be the same grammatical form.

This rule of **parallelism** is most important when it comes to phrases as there are seven different types. Here is a list of the five most common phrase types.

- ① Gerund Phrases
- ② Infinitive Phrases
- ③ Noun Phrases
- ④ Prepositional Phrases
- ⑤ Participle Phrases

When there are only 2 parallel structures connected, we only link with the conjunction whereas when there are 3 or more parallel structures, we put a comma [,] between each structure and a conjunction between the last two list items.

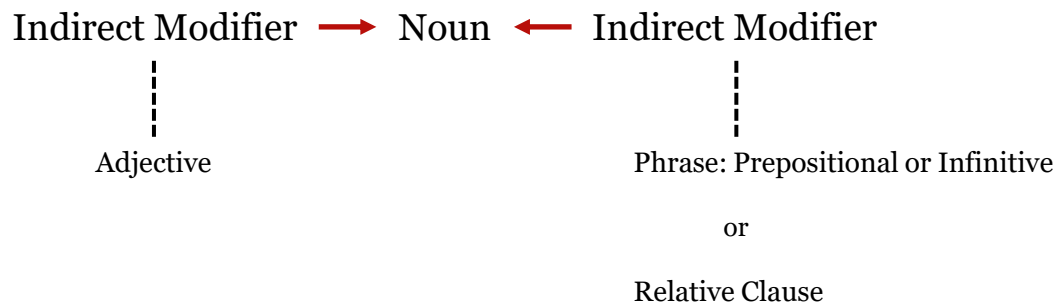
2-Items: Working for a well-know company **and** earning a lot of money

3-Items: Working for a well-know company, earning a lot of money, **and** having a lot of responsibility

## II. How does Parallelism work within a sentence?

A. The subject of a sentence is made up of a noun phrase which can have direct or indirect modifiers. In English grammar, the word modifier basically means that it describes another part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, or adverb) in some way.

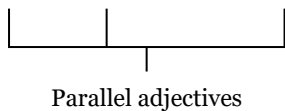
Since the subject of the sentence is a noun, its direct modifier is an adjective while the indirect modifier might be a prepositional or infinitive phrase or a relative clause.



Parallelism works in the subject area of the sentence **when we list two or more of the following**:

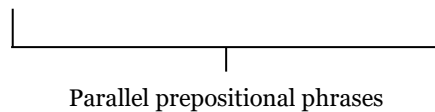
-Adjectives before a subject noun

The *red, yellow, and blue* colors make up the primary colors.



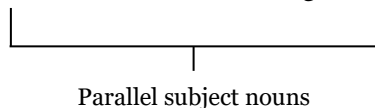
-Phrases after a subject noun or

Food prices ***within the country*** and ***around the world*** are increasing.



-Collective (plural) subject nouns

My ***brother*** and his best ***friend*** are trying out for the football team.

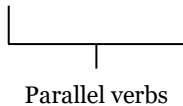


**B.** The predicate of the sentence is made up of the verb and its object. The verb or its object may both contain direct and indirect modifiers. As with the subject noun, an object noun may be modified with adjectives, phrases, or a relative clause while the verb may be modified directly with an adverb or indirectly with phrases or clauses.

Predicate grammar is where you see more types of parallel structures as you can have any of the following:

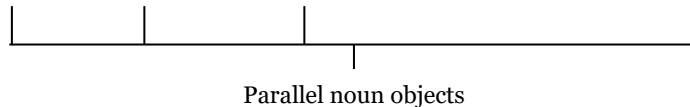
#### Parallel verbs

We *create* and *sell* quality products at low prices.



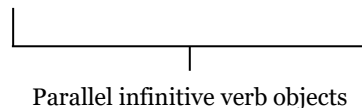
#### Parallel noun objects

Rainbow tours organizes *flights, cruises, car rentals, and hotel accommodations*.



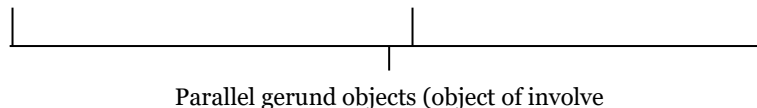
#### Parallel infinitive objects

The police managed **to** *arrest* the thief and *recover* all your belongings.



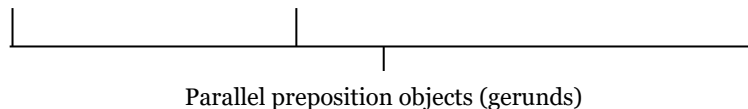
#### Parallel gerund objects

The job **involves** *dealing with customers, taking calls, and handling cash*.



#### Parallel preposition objects

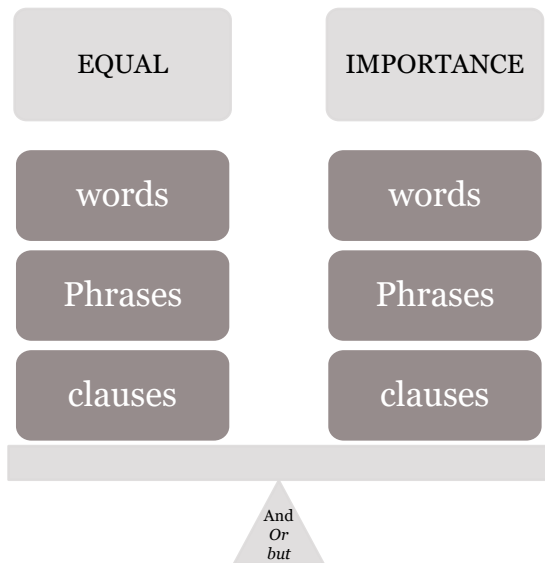
I'm interested **in** *playing sports, listening to music, and discovering new things*.



To sum up, parallelism is an important part of English grammar, and you can see it in so many examples. Next up, we'll examine how subordination works differently to parallelism along with how you can use it to communicate strategically.

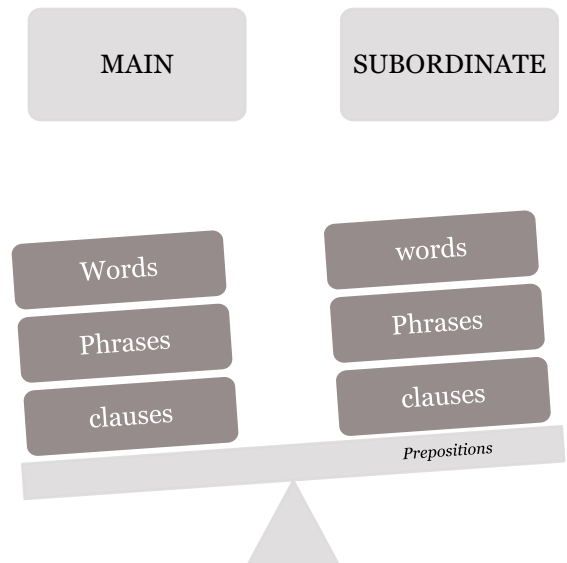
### III. Subordination vs Parallelism

A. When two things are grammatically equal, it means they should have the same grammatical form. When it comes to communication on a deeper level, however, grammatically equal also means that one idea is not any more important over another idea. It means that each idea, phrase, or word carries equal weight in the hierarchy of ideas communicated.



#### Coordinating Conjunctions:

*Use coordinating conjunctions to link grammatically equal words and phrases. Grammatically equal words and phrases have no hierarchy; hence, there is no emphasis.*



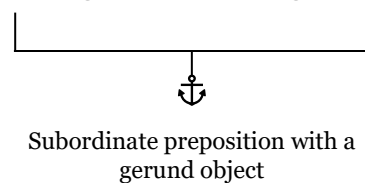
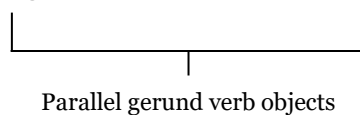
#### Prepositions:

*Prepositions can be used to subordinate grammatically unequal words and phrases. As you can see from the graphic, the main words and phrases carry more weight (importance).*

B. Subordination creates a separation by order of hierarchy, relevance, importance, similarity, emphasis, and more.

Use the prepositions ***along with***, ***as well as***, and ***in addition to*** in place of ***and*** to add an additional word or phrase to your list, but in a grammatically unequal way.

The job **involves** *dealing with customers* and *taking calls* **along with** *handling cash*.



## IV. Examples of Subordination

### In the Subject

*My mother, grandmother, and brother **all live** in a house together.*

3 Parallel Collective Noun Subjects

Verb must agree in number!

Adverb must also agree!

\*Notice the changes between the first example and the second:

- Both subjects are plural where example 1 has a collective 3 nouns whereas example 2 has a collective 2 nouns. Hence, the adverbs must change with the sentence.
- The brother was subordinated from the subject and moved to the end of the sentence as an adverbial phrase. It must, therefore, follow rules of word order as it now modifies the verb. The first adverbial modifier to *live* is *where* (i.e., in a house) while the next adverbial modifier in line is *with whom* (as in *along with my brother*).

*My mother and grandmother **both live** in a house *along with my brother*.*

2 Parallel Collective Noun Subjects

Verb still agrees

Subordinated prepositional phrase moved after the predicate (adverbial)

Adverb must also agree!

\*Now notice the changes between the second and third example:

- Example 3 has a singular subject.
- The adverb was removed because there is no need to add an adverb of number on a singular subject and verb.
- The relationship of the other two house inhabitants is related through the prepositional phrase.

*My mother **lives** in a house *along with my grandmother and brother*.*

Singular Noun Subject

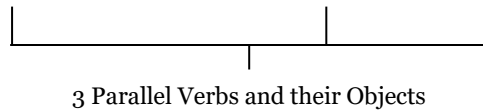
Verb still agrees (3<sup>rd</sup> Person Singular)

Subordinated prepositional phrase moved after the predicate (adverbial)

# More Examples of Subordination

## Collective Verb Phrases -> Subordinate

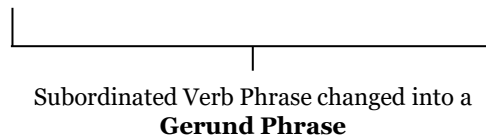
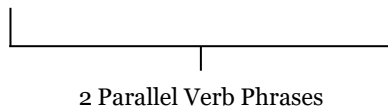
I generally *practice the piano, study, and do my chores* in the evening.



\*Now moving to the predicate, notice the changes from the first example to the second.

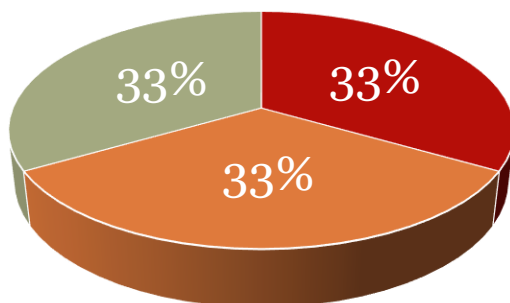
- The first example contains 3 parallel verb phrases that are all grammatically equal.
- The second example separates one of the verb phrases by subordinating it.
- Since the verb is subordinated by a preposition, it becomes a gerund (verb in the ing form).

I generally *practice the piano* and *study* **along with** *doing my chores* in the evening.



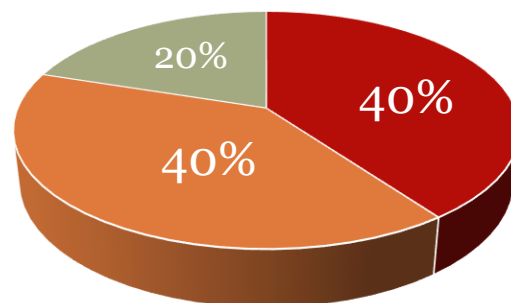
\*Think about why the speaker might subordinate one of the actions from the other two. Perhaps the subordination has something to do with the speaker's perception as to how much time she spends on the three actions.

3 Equal Actions



■ piano practice ■ study ■ chores

2 Equal Actions + 1 Subordinate



■ piano practice ■ study ■ chores

# V. Practice Makes Perfect

Since subordination with prepositions is all about hierarchy and priorities as well as organizing ideas by relevance, let's do some practice exercises on your own.

1. Your mom or dad has given you this list of chores (housework) to do before they get home. However, you had some extra time and did more than they had asked. When they get home and ask you what you've done, you tell them:

## To-Do List

- Vacuum the floor
- Do the dusting
- Clean the bathroom

## Done

- ☒ Vacuum the floor
- ☒ Do the dusting
- ☒ Clean the bathroom
- ☒ Hang the laundry
- ☒ Take the dog out

Tell your parents what extra chores you did from the list in addition to the (regular) chores you've done.

While you guys were out, \_\_\_\_\_  
along with \_\_\_\_\_.

2. You are being interviewed on the street by an English student about your sport activities. He asks you which sports you play or played when you were younger. You tell him:

## Primary/Competitive Sports

- Basketball
- Volleyball

## Just for fun

- ☒ Swimming (competitively)
- ☒ Tennis (for fun)

Tell the student which sports you play or played, separating the ones you do/did competitively from the ones you do/did just for fun.

I play/used to play \_\_\_\_\_ competitively along with \_\_\_\_\_.

3. You are being interviewed on the street by a different English student about the holidays. She asks you what you like about the holiday season. You tell her:

## Like the most

- Eating traditional foods
- Putting up decorations

## Like to a lesser extent

- ☒ Shopping for gifts
- ☒ Wrapping gifts

Tell the student things you like about the holidays, separating the ones you enjoy the most from the ones you like but to a lesser extent.

During the holidays, I really enjoy \_\_\_\_\_  
along with \_\_\_\_\_.

# Answers

\*These answer sentences are by no means the absolute right sentence. You could have something similar and it might be correct. The important thing is you are doing the subordination correctly. If you're not sure, why don't you leave a comment on the accompanying YouTube video and I could correct it for you in the video comments?

<https://youtu.be/W7vPfBopA2c>

1. Tell your parents what extra chores you did from the list in addition to the (regular) chores you've done.

While you guys were out, I hung the laundry and took the dog out in addition to vacuuming the floor, doing the dusting, and cleaning the bathroom.

2. Tell the student which sports you play or played, separating the ones you do/did competitively from the ones you do/did just for fun.

I play/used to play basketball and volleyball competitively as well as doing swimming and tennis just for fun.

3. Tell the student things you like about the holidays, separating the ones you enjoy the most from the ones you like but to a lesser extent.

During the holidays, I really enjoy eating traditional foods and putting up decorations along with shopping for and wrapping gifts.

