

## Grammar - Correlative Conjunctions

**Point 1:** Conjunctions link words or clauses together. Correlative conjunctions are a pair of conjunctions that link words or clauses.

1. **Neither** Tom **nor** Sally know how to drive. (neither/nor is the correlative conjunction)
2. I spoke to **both** my friends **and** family to get their advice.
3. I would like to eat **either** the salad **or** the soup.
4. I can't decide **whether** to quit my job **or** continue working.

**Point 2:** Correlative conjunctions link words or phrases or clauses that are equally important and are the same part of speech.

1. The lady was **both** kind **and** friendly.  
(kind and friendly are adjectives)
2. **Whether** I liked it **or** not, I had to finish my assignment on time.  
(‘I liked it’ and ‘not’ are both verb phrases)
3. It was **neither** the rice **nor** the noodles that smelled so good.  
(‘the rice’ and ‘the noodles’ are both nouns)
4. I was **either** going to sleep early **or** stay up late.  
(‘going to sleep early’ or ‘stay up late’ are both verb phrases)

**Point 3:** **Neither/nor** means both options in the clauses are not true.

1. The boy was **neither** quiet **nor** happy.
2. I was **neither** going to speak to them **nor** write to them.
3. **Neither** the coach **nor** the players were happy with the game.
4. It was **neither** polite **nor** practical to decline his offer to help.

**Point 4:** **Both/and** means all the options in the clauses are true.

1. **Both** the teacher **and** the students enjoyed the lesson.
2. Santa Claus gave the children **both** sweets **and** presents.
3. The professor was **both** happy **and** proud of the recent graduates.
4. We are **both** short of time **and** money.

**Point 5:** **Either/or** means at least one of the options in the clauses is true.

1. If I had to go on holiday, I would choose **either** the beach **or** the mountains.
2. You can ask **either** the professor **or** the TA to help you.
3. I would like **either** apple juice **or** orange juice, whichever is available.
4. We can **either** drive **or** take the subway to the concert.

**Point 6:** Pronunciation tip! When speaking, pause before the second conjunction.

1. I **neither** wanted to eat // **nor** drink.
2. The children were **both** tired // **and** hungry.
3. If I were you, I would **either** call in sick // **or** work from home.
4. **Whether** you are a beginner // **or** an expert, this is the best place to learn dance.

## Correlative Conjunctions

Watch our video using **Correlative Conjunctions** in four conversations.

### Conversation 1 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

**Man:** Is Bob coming to the party?

**Woman:** Yes, **both** he **and** his wife are coming.

**Man:** What about Joe and his wife?

**Woman:** **Neither** Joe **nor** his wife can make it.

**Man:** Oh, that's too bad.

**Woman:** Yeah, it is rare when all of us are together.

### Conversation 2 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

**Woman:** What can I use to make a website for my side business?

**Man:** I would use **either** Blogger **or** Wordpress.

**Woman:** Which one is better?

**Man:** It depend **whether** you are making a simple site **or** a complex site.

**Woman:** Most likely, I'm making a simple site, nothing fancy, to begin with at least.

**Man:** Then, I would use Blogger.

**Woman:** Which one is cheaper?

**Man:** Both of them are free, but Wordpress has more functionality.

**Woman:** Well, I'm not sure **whether or not** I will need to add things. Should I go with Wordpress then?

**Man:** Yes. If you're not sure **whether** you'll add things **or** not, I'd go with Wordpress.

**Woman:** OK, I'll go with Wordpress, then.

### Conversation 3 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

**Man:** Do know **whether** Jack **or** Sally will give the next presentation?

**Woman:** It will be Sally, for sure.

**Man:** Why not Jack, or Jim for that matter?

**Woman:** **Neither** Jack **nor** Jim have any experience giving a sales presentation to a major client.

**Man:** True, they are both newbies, but they have to learn somehow.

**Woman:** True. Just not this time.

### Conversation 4 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

**Man:** I hear *both* Bob *and* Sue will move soon.

**Woman:** Really? I had no idea. What will they do?

**Man:** They're not sure. They want to *either* work overseas *or* travel for a bit.

**Woman:** Oh, that's too bad. They're such a nice couple.

**Man:** Yeah, *neither* the Friday night parties *nor* hiking trips will be the same without them.

**Woman:** So true! Well, regardless of where they go, I hope we stay in touch.

**Man:** Me, too.

## Quiz

*Answer these questions about the interview.*

1) Who is coming to the party?

a) Joe and his wife

**b) Bob and his wife**

2) What app is best for a simple site?

**a) Blogger**

b) Wordpress

3) Who has more experience?

a) Jack

**b) Sally**

4) What are Bob and Sue going to do?

**a) Travel**

b) Start a business

## Starting a Presentation

Captivating your audience from the get-go is the key to a successful presentation. Whether you're a seasoned speaker or a novice taking the stage for the first time, the opening of your presentation sets the tone for the entire talk. Much like in how to write a narrative essay, where the introduction is crucial in drawing readers in, your presentation's beginning should also grab attention and spark curiosity.

## Grab-attention immediately

### **Ask a thought-provoking question**

Get the audience's wheels turning by throwing them a thought-provoking question right out of the gate. Make them ponder, wonder and engage their critical thinking muscles from the very start.

### **Share a surprising statistic or fact**

Brace yourself for some wide eyes and dropped jaws! Open your presentation with a jaw-dropping statistic or a mind-blowing fact that's directly related to your topic. Nothing captures attention like a good ol' dose of shock and awe.

### **State a bold statement or challenge**

Ready to shake things up? Kick off with a bold and daring statement that sets the stage for your presentation's epic journey. Boldness has a way of making ears perk up and eyes widen in anticipation!

### **Engage with a poll or interactive activity**

Turn the audience from passive listeners to active participants by kicking off with a fun poll or interactive activity. Get them on their feet, or rather — their fingertips, right from the start!

### **Begin with an opening phrase that captures attention**

Use opening phrases that can help you create a strong connection with your audience and make them eager to hear more about what you have to say. Remember to be confident, enthusiastic and authentic in your delivery to maximize the impact of your presentation.

Here are some effective presentation starting words and phrases that can help you grab your audience's attention and set the stage for a captivating presentation:

1. "Imagine..."
2. "Picture this..."
3. "Did you know that..."
4. "Have you ever wondered..."
5. "In this presentation, we'll explore..."
6. "Let's dive right in and discover..."

7. "I'm excited to share with you..."
8. "I have a confession to make..."
9. "I want to start by telling you a story..."
10. "Before we begin, let's consider..."
11. "Have you ever faced the challenge of..."
12. "We all know that..."
13. "This is a topic close to my heart because..."
14. "Over the next [minutes/hours], we'll cover..."
15. "I invite you to journey with me through..."