

Correlative Conjunctions

Introduction

1) Conjunctions are words that link other words, phrases, clauses, or sentences together.

*Susan is an amazing wife **and** a wonderful mom.*

2) There are many types of conjunctions. Among them there are correlative conjunctions. They connect two equal grammatical items in a sentence.

***Either** you apologise **or** I'll call mommy!*

These conjunctions come in pairs – *either ... or, neither ... nor, not only ... but also, rather ... than etc.*

When using correlative conjunctions, pay attention to the subject-predicate agreement so that you have parallel structures.

~~College life is not only about partying, but also study like crazy.~~

*College life is **not only** about partying, **but also** about studying like crazy.*

Note that a negative correlative like *neither ... nor* can go at the beginning of a sentence. In this case, the word order is inverted, and the auxiliary verb comes before the subject. Compare the sentences:

***Neither did** Sam clean the apartment **nor did** he buy groceries.*

*Sam **neither cleaned** the apartment **nor bought** groceries.*

Short Story Dialogue

- We can go **either** to the park **or** to the mall.
- I don't feel like going anywhere. I'd **rather** stay at home **than** go anywhere.
- Is something wrong?
- No, everything is OK. I just feel a bit sick. I don't know why though. **Neither** did I eat anything weird **nor** did I drink alcohol.
- You should definitely rest then!

Independent Practice - Correlative Conjunctions

1) Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

- a. They are either crazy nor madly in love.
- b. Neither did Beckie understand her friend nor she tried to understand her.
- c. Traveling alone isn't as fun as to travel with friends.
- d. These jeans are both expensive or outdated.
- e. She'd rather buy frozen food than cooking every day.
- f. This joke is neither funny or appropriate.
- g. Not only will they come here but will they also stay with me for a whole week!
- h. He would rather die than would tell them the truth.
- i. She finds James not repulsive only but also annoying.
- j. Only not does he sing but he also dances at the same time.

Independent Practice: Answers - Correlative Conjunctions

1) Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

- a. They are either crazy ~~nor~~ **or** madly in love.
- b. Neither did Beckie understand her friend nor ~~she tried~~ **did she try** to understand her.
- c. Traveling alone isn't as fun as ~~to travel~~ **traveling** with friends.
- d. These jeans are both expensive ~~or~~ **and** outdated.
- e. She'd rather buy frozen food than ~~cooking~~ **cook** every day.
- f. This joke is neither funny ~~or~~ **nor** appropriate.
- g. Not only will they come here but ~~will they~~ **they will** also stay with me for a whole week!
- h. He would rather die than ~~would tell~~ **tell** them the truth.
- i. She finds James ~~not repulsive only~~ **not only repulsive** but also annoying.
- j. ~~Only not~~ **Not only** does he sing but he also dances at the same time.