

## Correlative Conjunctions

**Correlative conjunctions** always appear in pairs -- you use them to link equivalent sentence elements. The most common correlative conjunctions are "both...and," "either...or," "neither...nor," "not only...but also," "so...as," and "whether...or." (Technically correlative conjunctions consist simply of a coordinating conjunction linked to an adjective or adverb.)

The **highlighted** words in the following sentences are correlative conjunctions:

**Both** my grandfather **and** my father worked in the steel plant.

In this sentence, the correlative conjunction "both...and" is used to link the two noun phrases that act as the compound subject of the sentence: "my grandfather" and "my father".

Bring **either** a Jello salad **or** a potato scallop.

Here the correlative conjunction "either...or" links two noun phrases: "a Jell-O salad" and "a potato scallop."

Corinne is trying to decide **whether** to go to medical school **or** to go to law school.

Similarly, the correlative conjunction "whether ... or" links the two infinitive phrases "to go to medical school" and "to go to law school."

The explosion destroyed **not only** the school **but also** the neighboring pub.

In this example the correlative conjunction "not only ... but also" links the two noun phrases ("the school" and "neighboring pub") which act as direct objects.

Note: some words which appear as conjunctions can also appear as prepositions or as adverbs.