

Lesson 34

Correlative Conjunctions

What is a Correlative Conjunction?

A correlative conjunction seems to be used in pairs and they correlate in order to make connections and provide equal importance to the points that are discussed in a sentence.

Definition of a Correlative Conjunction

According to the Collins Dictionary, correlative conjunctions are made up of two or more words working together as a pair, to link two similar items. Correlative conjunctions are defined as words that are used to describe two or more things that are related to each other, according to the Cambridge Dictionary.

Conjunction	Examples
Either ... or	Either you learn how to do it or you will have to face the consequences.
Neither ... nor	Neither the teacher nor the students were in the classroom this morning.
Not only ... but also	She is not only a painter but also a sculptor.
Whether ... or	Michael was saying that he is not sure whether he should stay at home tonight or leave it immediately.
No sooner ... than	No sooner did my mom complete all the kitchen work than she started cleaning the house.
Rather ... than	He would rather do something useful than wasting time on this.
Such ... that	My cousin did such a stupid thing that everyone mocked him.
Scarcely ... when Hardly ... when	Boris had scarcely left work when his boss called and he had to go back into the office again. Hardly had I reached the station when the train came.
As many/much ... as	There are as many spoons as there are forks.
Both ... and	Both Andrew and Sheena liked the movie.

«**Either**» and «**neither**» can be used without the particles «**or**» and «**nor**» in other semantic senses:

either	Either of these jackets suits you
neither	Neither of these jackets suits you

Remember!

When we begin a sentence with a negative word, we put the auxiliary verb before the subject:

- ❖ No sooner **had** she read the letter than she started crying.
(NOT No sooner she read the letter than she started crying.)
- ❖ Hardly **had** I reached the station when the train came.
- ❖ Scarcely **had** I reached the station when the train arrived.

Note that **did** is also possible in this structure.

- ❖ No sooner **did** I arrive at the station than the train came.

Note:

Note that **when** and **before** are not possible in such structures.