

CONJUNCTIONS — PART OF SPEECH

COMPLETE CONCEPT EXPLANATION

1. Definition

A conjunction is a part of speech — a joining word — used to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. The word conjunction comes from the Latin *conjungere*, meaning 'to join together'. Conjunctions establish a logical or grammatical relationship between the elements they connect. Without conjunctions, language would consist only of short, disconnected statements.

Key characteristics of conjunctions:

- They do not change their form (no conjugation, inflection, or declension).
- They do not carry primary meaning on their own — they signal relationships.
- They can connect units of equal or unequal grammatical rank.
- Their position in a sentence determines the type of conjunction.

2. Types, Categories, and Classifications

TYPE 1: Coordinating Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions connect two or more grammatically equal elements — word + word, phrase + phrase, independent clause + independent clause. They give equal (coordinate) importance to both elements.

The seven coordinating conjunctions are remembered by the mnemonic: FANBOYS

- F — For (expresses reason/cause)
- A — And (adds one element to another)

- N — Nor (adds a negative alternative)
- B — But (expresses contrast)
- O — Or (expresses alternative/choice)
- Y — Yet (expresses contrast despite expectation)
- S — So (expresses result/consequence)

Mnemonic: FANBOYS — For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

TYPE 2: Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions introduce a dependent (subordinate) clause and connect it to the main (independent) clause. They make one clause grammatically lower in rank than the other, expressing a logical relationship such as time, cause, condition, contrast, or purpose.

Categories of subordinating conjunctions:

CATEGORY	CONJUNCTIONS	RELATIONSHIP EXPRESSED
Time	when, before, after, since, until, as soon as, while, once, whenever, as	Temporal relationship between events
Cause / Reason	because, since, as, now that, inasmuch as	One event causes or reasons the other
Condition	if, unless, provided that, as long as, in case, supposing	One event depends on another
Contrast / Concession	although, though, even though, even if, while, whereas	One fact contrasts with or qualifies another
Purpose	so that, in order that, lest	The intention behind an action
Result	so...that, such...that	The outcome of an action
Comparison	than, as...as, rather than	Degree or quality comparison

Manner	as, as if, as though	How an action is done
Place	where, wherever	Location of an event

TYPE 3: Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together to join parallel elements of equal grammatical rank. Both parts of the pair must be used; using only one is a grammatical error.

PAIR	USAGE	EXAMPLE
both...and	Inclusive addition	She is both talented and hardworking.
either...or	Exclusive/inclusive alternative	You can either stay or leave.
neither...nor	Negative alternative	He is neither honest nor reliable.
not only...but also	Addition with emphasis	Not only did he lie, but he also refused to apologise.
whether...or	Alternative in indirect questions	I do not know whether he will come or stay.
so...that	Result/degree	It was so cold that the pipes burst.
such...that	Result/quality	It was such a cold night that we stayed indoors.
no sooner...than	Immediate sequence	No sooner had she left than it began to rain.
hardly/scarcely...when/before	Near-simultaneous events	Hardly had he spoken when the lights went out.

as...as	Equal degree comparison	She is as intelligent as her brother.
rather...than	Preference	He would rather fail than cheat.

TYPE 4: Conjunctive Adverbs (Transitional Expressions)

Though not pure conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs function to connect independent clauses and show logical relationships. They require a semicolon before them and a comma after them (when linking two independent clauses in a compound sentence).

Common conjunctive adverbs: however, therefore, nevertheless, moreover, furthermore, consequently, hence, thus, otherwise, meanwhile, likewise, indeed, besides, nonetheless, accordingly.

Structure: Independent Clause; conjunctive adverb, Independent Clause.

Example: He studied hard; nevertheless, he could not clear the examination.

3. Rules of Conjunctions

RULE 1 **A coordinating conjunction joining two independent clauses must be preceded by a comma. Do NOT use a comma when conjunctions join only two words or two phrases.**

Ex. 1 She studied hard, but she failed the test. (Two independent clauses — comma required before 'but'.)

Ex. 2 He is tall and handsome. (Two adjectives joined — no comma needed.)

Ex. 3 I went to the market and bought vegetables. (Two verb phrases — no comma needed.)

RULE 2 A subordinate clause introduced by a subordinating conjunction is **DEPENDENT** and cannot stand alone as a sentence. If the subordinate clause comes **BEFORE** the main clause, it must be followed by a comma.

Ex. 1 Although it was raining, we continued the match. (Subordinate clause first — comma required.)

Ex. 2 We continued the match although it was raining. (Main clause first — no comma.)

Ex. 3 Because he was tired, he went to bed early. (Subordinate clause first — comma required.)

RULE 3 Correlative conjunctions must connect grammatically **PARALLEL** elements. The word class (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, phrase, or clause) on both sides must be identical.

Ex. 1 WRONG: She is not only beautiful but also behaves well. CORRECT: She is not only beautiful but also well-behaved. (Both must be adjectives.)

Ex. 2 WRONG: He can either go now or he can stay. CORRECT: He can either go now or stay. (Both must be verb phrases.)

Ex. 3 Both the director and the manager were present. (Both nouns — parallel and correct.)

RULE 4 'Neither...nor' and 'either...or' determine subject-verb agreement by the element **CLOSEST** to the verb (proximity rule). The verb agrees with the nearer subject.

Ex. 1 Neither the teacher nor the students were present. ('Students' is closer — plural verb 'were'.)

Ex. 2 Either the boys or the captain decides the strategy. ('Captain' is closer — singular verb 'decides'.)

Ex. 3 Neither he nor I am responsible for this error. ('I' is closer — verb 'am'.)

RULE 5 'Both...and' always takes a **PLURAL** verb, regardless of whether the individual subjects are singular.

Ex. 1 Both the manager and the director are accountable. (Plural verb 'are'.)

Ex. 2 Both logic and emotion play a role in decision-making. (Plural verb 'play'.)

Ex. 3 **WRONG:** Both the captain and the vice-captain is available. **CORRECT:** ...are available.

RULE 6 'No sooner' is followed by 'than', **NOT** 'when' or 'then'. 'Hardly/Scarcely/Barely' is followed by 'when' or 'before', **NOT** 'than'.

Ex. 1 No sooner had the match begun than it started raining. (NOT 'when' or 'then'.)

Ex. 2 Hardly had she entered the room when the phone rang. (NOT 'than'.)

Ex. 3 Scarcely had we left the house before the storm hit. (NOT 'than'.)

RULE 7 'Because' introduces a reason; it should **NOT** be used after 'the reason is'. Use 'that' instead: 'The reason is that...'. Similarly, 'because of' is followed by a noun/noun phrase, not a clause.

Ex. 1 **WRONG:** The reason for his failure is because he did not study. **CORRECT:** The reason for his failure is that he did not study.

Ex. 2 He failed because he did not study. (Correct use of 'because' with a clause.)

Ex. 3 He failed because of his carelessness. (Correct use of 'because of' with a noun phrase.)

RULE 8 'Although/Though/Even though' must NOT be used with 'but' or 'yet' in the same sentence. These conjunctions already carry the idea of contrast. Using both creates a double conjunction error.

Ex. 1 WRONG: Although he tried hard, but he failed. CORRECT: Although he tried hard, he failed.

Ex. 2 WRONG: Though she was tired, yet she continued working. CORRECT: Though she was tired, she continued working.

Ex. 3 He tried hard, but he failed. (Here 'but' is used alone — correct.)

RULE 9 'While' can mean 'at the same time as' (time), 'although/whereas' (contrast), or 'as long as' (condition). Its meaning depends on context. Avoid ambiguity by choosing a more precise conjunction when contrast is intended.

Ex. 1 While I was cooking, the doorbell rang. (Time — simultaneous actions.)

Ex. 2 While she is intelligent, her brother is more diligent. (Contrast — 'whereas' is clearer.)

Ex. 3 Do not leave while the meeting is in progress. (Condition/time — correct.)

RULE 10 'Unless' means 'if not'. It introduces a negative condition and must NEVER be used with 'not' again in the same clause — doing so creates a double negative.

Ex. 1 WRONG: Unless you do not work hard, you will not succeed. CORRECT: Unless you work hard, you will not succeed.

Ex. 2 Unless he apologises, she will not forgive him. (Single negative — correct.)

Ex. 3 You will miss the train unless you leave now. (Correct — 'unless' already implies 'if not'.)

RULE 11 'Lest' introduces a clause expressing fear or caution. It is always followed by 'should' (not 'would', 'may', or 'might') or by a base verb in formal usage.

Ex. 1 Work hard lest you should fail. (Correct — 'should' after 'lest'.)

Ex. 2 WRONG: Be careful lest you may fall. CORRECT: Be careful lest you should fall.

Ex. 3 She kept quiet lest she should offend anyone. (Correct use with 'should'.)

RULE 12 A conjunctive adverb (however, therefore, consequently, etc.) connecting two independent clauses requires a SEMICOLON before it and a COMMA after it. Using only a comma creates a comma splice error.

Ex. 1 WRONG: He was tired, however, he kept working. CORRECT: He was tired; however, he kept working.

Ex. 2 The results were poor; therefore, the project was cancelled.

Ex. 3 She disagreed with the decision; nevertheless, she implemented it faithfully.

RULE 13 'Than' used in comparisons introduces a clause or phrase, not just a noun. When a pronoun follows 'than', its case must reflect the implied verb: subject pronoun if it is the subject of an implied verb.

Ex. 1 She is taller than I (am). (Not 'than me' if subject role is implied.)

Ex. 2 He trusts her more than me. (Means 'more than he trusts me' — object pronoun correct here.)

Ex. 3 He trusts her more than I (do). (Means 'more than I trust her' — subject pronoun correct here.)

RULE 14 'Nor' must always be used after a negative statement. When 'nor' begins a new independent clause after a negative clause, subject-verb inversion is required (auxiliary + subject + main verb).

- Ex. 1** He does not drink, nor does he smoke. (Inversion: 'does he smoke', not 'he smokes'.)
- Ex. 2** She had no money, nor did she have any hope. (Inversion after negative clause.)
- Ex. 3** Neither the food nor the service was satisfactory. (Part of 'neither...nor' pair — no inversion needed.)

RULE 15 When 'as well as', 'along with', 'together with', 'in addition to', 'rather than' connect two subjects, the verb agrees with the FIRST subject only. These are not true coordinating conjunctions and do not create compound subjects.

- Ex. 1** The principal, as well as the teachers, was present. (Verb 'was' agrees with 'principal'.)
- Ex. 2** Ravi, together with his friends, is going to the concert. (Verb 'is' agrees with 'Ravi'.)
- Ex. 3** The general, along with his soldiers, marches every morning. ('Marches' — agrees with 'general'.)

4. Common Errors — Correct vs. Incorrect

INCORRECT	CORRECT
Although he tried, but he failed.	Although he tried, he failed.
The reason is because he was late.	The reason is that he was late.

Unless you do not submit it, I will penalise you.

No sooner had she left when it rained.

Hardly had he spoken than the alarm rang.

Be careful lest you may slip.

Neither the boys nor the girl are ready.

Both the captain and the player is fit.

He is not only brave but also behaves calmly.

He was tired, however, he continued.

Either the manager or the directors decides.

She is as brilliant, if not more than, him.

Unless you submit it, I will penalise you.

No sooner had she left than it rained.

Hardly had he spoken when the alarm rang.

Be careful lest you should slip.

Neither the boys nor the girl is ready.

Both the captain and the player are fit.

He is not only brave but also calm.

He was tired; however, he continued.

Either the manager or the directors decide.

She is as brilliant as, if not more brilliant than, him.

5. Comparison: Coordinating vs. Subordinating Conjunctions

FEATURE	COORDINATING	SUBORDINATING
Elements joined	Equal (coordinate) rank	Unequal — main + dependent clause
Position	Always between the elements	Usually before the dependent clause
Can begin a sentence?	Formally no; informally yes	Yes — when subordinate clause comes first

Creates	Compound sentence	Complex sentence
Examples	and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so	because, although, if, when, since, unless
Clause standalone?	Both clauses can stand alone	Subordinate clause cannot stand alone

6. Memory Tricks and Mnemonics

- FANBOYS — For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So (all 7 coordinating conjunctions)
- ALTHOUGH/THOUGH = CONTRAST: Never add 'but' or 'yet'. Think: 'Although = but in disguise — never use both.'
- NO SOONER = 'THAN' — the word 'sooner' contains a comparison idea, so it naturally pairs with 'than'.
- HARDLY/SCARCELY/BARELY = 'WHEN' — these are time expressions of near-simultaneity, not comparison, so never 'than'.
- LEST = always 'SHOULD' — 'lest' is formal and always requires the subjunctive/modal 'should'.
- UNLESS = IF NOT — never add 'not' again; think of 'unless' as already carrying the negative.
- BOTH...AND = ALWAYS PLURAL — two people together = plural verb, no exceptions.
- PROXIMITY RULE — For 'either...or' and 'neither...nor', the verb follows the nearest subject.

RULES SUMMARY — QUICK REVISION REFERENCE

#	RULE	EXAMPLE
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1	Comma before coordinating conjunction joining two independent clauses; no comma when joining words or phrases only.	She smiled, and he waved. / She smiled and waved.
2	Subordinate clause before main clause = comma after subordinate clause; subordinate clause after main clause = no comma.	When it rained, we stopped. / We stopped when it rained.
3	Correlative conjunctions must connect grammatically parallel elements (same word class on both sides).	She is not only intelligent but also diligent.
4	With 'either...or' / 'neither...nor', the verb agrees with the subject CLOSER to it (proximity rule).	Neither the boys nor the captain is present.
5	'Both...and' always takes a plural verb.	Both Riya and Meera are ready.
6	'No sooner' + 'than'; 'Hardly/Scarcely/Barely' + 'when/before'. Never swap these pairs.	No sooner had he left than it rained.
7	'The reason is that...' not 'the reason is because...'. 'Because of' is followed by a noun phrase, not a clause.	The reason is that he was absent.
8	'Although/Though/Even though' must NOT be paired with 'but' or 'yet' in the same sentence.	Although she tried, she failed.
9	'While' can show time or contrast; avoid it for contrast when 'whereas' is clearer.	While he is lazy, his sister is diligent.
10	'Unless' already means 'if not'; never add 'not' inside the unless-clause.	Unless you work hard, you will not pass.
11	'Lest' is always followed by 'should' (not 'may', 'might', or 'would').	Study hard lest you should fail.

12	A conjunctive adverb connecting independent clauses requires a semicolon before it and a comma after it.	He tried; however, he failed.
13	After 'than' in comparisons, the pronoun case depends on the implied verb in the clause.	She runs faster than I (do).
14	'Nor' after a negative statement requires subject-verb inversion in the following clause.	He does not lie, nor does he cheat.
15	'As well as', 'along with', 'together with' do not create compound subjects; the verb agrees with the first subject.	The CEO, as well as the directors, was present.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS — PART 1 (All 60 Questions)

Note: Attempt all 60 questions before consulting the answers in Part 2.

CATEGORY 1 — SPOT THE MISTAKE (Q1–Q15)

Each sentence contains one conjunction-related error. Identify the error and correct it.

Q1. Although the project was completed on time, but the client rejected the final deliverable without citing any specific reason.

Q2. No sooner had the chairman announced the results when the shareholders erupted into loud applause in the conference hall.

- Q3.** The reason the team underperformed this quarter is because several key members were simultaneously handling multiple conflicting projects.
- Q4.** Unless you do not submit the application before the deadline, the committee will not consider your candidacy for the fellowship.
- Q5.** She is not only an exceptional writer but also possesses remarkable leadership qualities that inspire those around her.
- Q6.** Neither the logistics team nor the finance department have submitted the consolidated report to the board as requested.
- Q7.** He studied diligently for months, however, he was unable to secure admission in any of the colleges he had applied to.
- Q8.** Scarcely had the delegates taken their seats than the emergency session was adjourned without any explanation.
- Q9.** Both the approach and the methodology adopted by the research committee is fundamentally flawed and requires immediate review.
- Q10.** Be extremely cautious in your speech lest you might offend the dignitaries who are present at this formal gathering.
- Q11.** The manager, as well as the entire team of twenty employees, were present for the all-hands meeting that lasted three hours.
- Q12.** Though she had prepared thoroughly for the interview, yet she struggled to articulate her thoughts clearly under pressure.
- Q13.** He was exhausted after the long journey, nevertheless he insisted on attending the farewell dinner to honour his colleague.
- Q14.** Either the prime witness or the secondary witnesses is expected to testify before the tribunal by Thursday afternoon.
- Q15.** Hardly had the new policy been announced than the opposition leaders convened a press conference to challenge its legality.

CATEGORY 2 — FILL IN THE RIGHT WORD (Q16–Q30)

Choose the most grammatically precise option. More than one option may appear correct — select the best.

Q16. _____ he had finished the first draft, he submitted it without proofreading.

- (A) Although
- (B) When
- (C) Because
- (D) Since

Q17. She will not attend the conference _____ the organiser personally extends her an invitation.

- (A) unless
- (B) if not
- (C) until
- (D) without

Q18. No sooner had he opened the letter _____ he realised the news it contained was life-changing.

- (A) when
- (B) than
- (C) then
- (D) before

Q19. The director was so deeply engrossed in the report _____ he did not notice anyone entering the room.

- (A) as
- (B) that
- (C) which
- (D) so

Q20. _____ the committee reaches a consensus, the decision will be implemented across all departments.

- (A) Although
- (B) While
- (C) Once
- (D) Since

Q21. Neither the sales figures _____ the client feedback indicated any improvement in the product's performance.

- (A) or
- (B) nor
- (C) and
- (D) but

Q22. He prefers to resolve conflicts through dialogue _____ escalating them to the management.

- (A) than
- (B) instead
- (C) rather than
- (D) other than

Q23. The professor explained the concept _____ clearly _____ even the weakest students could grasp it.

- (A) so / that
- (B) such / that
- (C) very / that
- (D) too / to

Q24. _____ hard she tries, her colleagues never seem to acknowledge her contributions.

- (A) Although
- (B) However
- (C) No matter how
- (D) Despite

Q25. She had barely sat down at her desk _____ the fire alarm was triggered and everyone evacuated.

- (A) than
- (B) then
- (C) when
- (D) before

Q26. The new regulation applies to all vendors _____ they are registered in the country or operating from abroad.

- (A) whether
- (B) if
- (C) although
- (D) unless

Q27. Study the terms carefully _____ you should later regret having signed the contract without understanding it.

- (A) lest
- (B) so that
- (C) in order
- (D) unless

Q28. The report was comprehensive; _____, the review panel asked for additional data to substantiate the findings.

- (A) however
- (B) but
- (C) although
- (D) despite

Q29. She would rather resign _____ work under conditions that compromise her professional integrity.

- (A) then
- (B) than
- (C) instead
- (D) but

Q30. _____ the team performed well in the first half, they completely lost momentum after the interval.

- (A) Because
- (B) Since
- (C) Although
- (D) So

CATEGORY 3 — CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE (Q31–Q45)

One sentence in each group is grammatically correct. Identify it.

Q31. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (A) Although she had all the resources, but she failed to complete the task.
- (B) Although she had all the resources, she failed to complete the task.
- (C) Despite she had all the resources, she failed to complete the task.
- (D) Though she had all the resources, yet the task remained incomplete.

Q32. Identify the correct sentence:

- (A) No sooner did the concert begin when the power went out.
- (B) Hardly had the concert begun than the power went out.
- (C) No sooner had the concert begun than the power went out.
- (D) Scarcely had the concert begun than the power went out.

Q33. Choose the grammatically sound sentence:

- (A) The reason she was dismissed is because she violated company policy.
- (B) The reason she was dismissed is that she violated company policy.
- (C) The reason why she was dismissed is because she violated company policy.
- (D) The reason for her dismissal is because she violated company policy.

Q34. Select the correct sentence:

- (A) Neither the principal nor the teachers was available for comment.
- (B) Neither the teachers nor the principal were available for comment.
- (C) Neither the teachers nor the principal was available for comment.
- (D) Neither the teachers nor the principal have been available for comment.

Q35. Which of the following uses correlative conjunctions correctly?

- (A) She is not only brilliant but also behaves with dignity.
- (B) She is not only brilliant but also dignified.
- (C) Not only she is brilliant but also is dignified.
- (D) She is not only brilliant but dignified also.

Q36. Identify the sentence with correct punctuation and conjunction use:

- (A) He worked overtime, however he was not paid extra.
- (B) He worked overtime; however he was not paid extra.

- (C) He worked overtime; however, he was not paid extra.
- (D) He worked overtime, however, he was not paid extra.

Q37. Which sentence correctly uses 'unless'?

- (A) Unless you do not bring the documents, entry will be denied.
- (B) Unless you will bring the documents, entry will be denied.
- (C) Unless you bring the documents, entry will be denied.
- (D) Unless you don't bring the documents, entry will be denied.

Q38. Choose the correct sentence regarding 'lest':

- (A) Hold the railing lest you may fall.
- (B) Hold the railing lest you might fall.
- (C) Hold the railing lest you would fall.
- (D) Hold the railing lest you should fall.

Q39. Identify the sentence with correct subject-verb agreement with 'both...and':

- (A) Both the chairman and the director was present at the meeting.
- (B) Both the chairman and the director were present at the meeting.
- (C) Both the chairman and the director is present at the meeting.
- (D) Both the chairman or the director were present at the meeting.

Q40. Which sentence correctly uses 'as well as'?

- (A) The CEO, as well as the board members, were unanimous in their verdict.
- (B) The CEO, as well as the board members, was unanimous in the verdict.
- (C) The CEO as well as the board members was unanimous in their verdict.
- (D) The CEO, as well as the board members are unanimous in their verdict.

Q41. Select the correct sentence using 'nor':

- (A) He does not approve of the plan, nor he will sign the document.
- (B) He does not approve of the plan, nor does he sign the document.
- (C) He does not approve of the plan, nor does he will sign the document.
- (D) He does not approve of the plan, nor will he sign the document.

Q42. Which sentence uses 'than' correctly after a comparison?

- (A) She performed the experiment more accurately than me did.
- (B) She performed the experiment more accurately than I.
- (C) She performed the experiment more accurately than me.
- (D) She performed the experiment more accurate than I.

Q43. Identify the correctly structured complex sentence:

- (A) When the committee announced the result, the auditorium erupted.
- (B) The committee announced the result, when the auditorium erupted.
- (C) When the committee announced the result; the auditorium erupted.
- (D) The auditorium erupted, when announced the committee the result.

Q44. Choose the sentence with correct use of 'while':

- (A) While she enjoys cooking, however, she rarely has time for it.
- (B) While she enjoys cooking, she rarely has time for it.
- (C) While she enjoys cooking but she rarely has time for it.
- (D) Although while she enjoys cooking, she rarely has time for it.

Q45. Which sentence is free of conjunction errors?

- (A) She not only completed the report but also have submitted it before the deadline.
- (B) She not only completed the report, but also submitted it before the deadline.

- (C) She not only completed the report but also submitted it before the deadline.
- (D) She not only completed the report but submitted it also before the deadline.

CATEGORY 4 — ANALYSE, REWRITE & EXPLAIN (Q46–Q60)

Deep analysis questions: identify clause types, correct paragraphs, rewrite sentences, and resolve competing grammatical rules.

Q46. The following sentence uses multiple conjunctions. Identify each conjunction, name its type, and describe the grammatical relationship it establishes: 'He studied hard, yet he failed, so he decided to seek professional guidance because he did not want to repeat the mistake.'

Q47. Rewrite the following sentence correcting all conjunction-related errors, and explain each correction: 'Although she had briefed the team thoroughly, but many members were confused, however they proceeded with the task.'

Q48. The following passage contains four conjunction errors. Identify each error, name the rule violated, and rewrite the passage correctly: 'The reason we lost the contract is because we delayed. Unless we do not improve our delivery timelines, clients will leave. Neither the sales team nor the management have addressed this. Although the problem is clear, but no one is acting.'

Q49. Analyse the difference in meaning between the following two sentences. Which pronoun form is correct in each case, and why? (a) 'She admires him more than I.' (b) 'She admires him more than me.'

Q50. Identify the type of each underlined conjunction and explain the relationship it creates: (a) 'We left early [so that] we could catch the train.' (b) '[Whereas] he is impulsive, his colleague is methodical.' (c) 'She speaks as [if] she were the director.'

Q51. Correct the sentence and explain the rule that governs 'no sooner': 'No sooner did the director enter the boardroom when all conversation abruptly came to a halt among the assembled executives.'

Q52. A student wrote: 'Both the approach chosen by the team and the strategy outlined by the consultant is likely to succeed.' Identify the error, state the rule, and rewrite the sentence.

Q53. Rewrite the following five sentences using the specified conjunction type without changing the core meaning: (a) He was hungry. He ate a large meal. [Use: so] (b) She runs every day. She is very fit. [Use: because] (c) He may work harder. He may not pass. [Use: even if] (d) She does not like coffee. She does not like tea. [Use: neither...nor] (e) He exercises daily. He maintains a strict diet. [Use: not only...but also]

Q54. The following sentence has a parallelism problem with a correlative conjunction. Rewrite it correctly and explain what parallelism demands: 'The CEO decided not only to restructure the sales division but also better client relationships would be built by the team.'

Q55. Explain the grammatical distinction between the following pairs. Rewrite each incorrect version correctly: (a) 'He is tired, however he is working.' vs 'He is tired; however, he is working.' (b) 'Although he is tired, but he is working.' vs 'Although he is tired, he is working.'

Q56. Identify and correct all errors in the following paragraph. After correcting, label every conjunction used and state its type: 'Unless he does not practice everyday, he will not succeed. Neither his coach nor his teammates has tried to motivate him. The reason is because he lacks confidence, although he has talent, but he wastes it.'

Q57. Two students debate: Student A says 'Either the manager or the supervisors is responsible.' Student B says 'Either the manager or the supervisors are responsible.' Who is correct, and why? What rule governs this situation? Construct two more sentences applying the same rule.

Q58. Rewrite the following sentence in three different ways — each time using a different type of conjunction (coordinating, subordinating, and correlative) — without changing the core meaning: 'She is skilled. She lacks confidence.'

Q59. The sentence reads: 'She left early lest she might miss the flight.' Identify the error. Explain the historical grammar behind 'lest' and the subjunctive mood. Rewrite correctly and add two more examples using 'lest' correctly.

Q60. Analyse the following complex sentence fully: 'Although the committee had been informed well in advance, the decision was deferred because adequate documentation was not provided, and no member was willing to proceed without it.' — (a) Identify the main clause. (b) Identify all subordinate clauses and their types. (c) Name every conjunction and classify it. (d) Could any conjunction be replaced by a conjunctive adverb? If so, demonstrate.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS — PART 2 (All 60 Answers with Explanations)

CATEGORY 1 — SPOT THE MISTAKE: Answers (Q1–Q15)

Q1 Ans: Error: 'but' after 'Although'. Rule 8 — 'Although' already expresses contrast; adding 'but' creates a double conjunction error.

Correction: Although the project was completed on time, the client rejected the final deliverable without citing any specific reason.

Q2 Ans: Error: 'when' should be 'than'. Rule 6 — 'No sooner' must be followed by 'than', never 'when', 'then', or 'before'.

Correction: No sooner had the chairman announced the results than the shareholders erupted into loud applause.

Q3 Ans: Error: 'because' after 'The reason...is'. Rule 7 — 'The reason is that...' is the correct construction; 'the reason is because' is a logical redundancy.

Correction: The reason the team underperformed this quarter is that several key members were handling multiple conflicting projects.

Q4 Ans: Error: 'do not' inside an 'unless' clause. Rule 10 — 'Unless' already means 'if not'; adding 'not' creates a double negative.

Correction: Unless you submit the application before the deadline, the committee will not consider your candidacy.

Q5 Ans: Error: Parallel structure broken. Rule 3 — 'not only an exceptional writer' (noun phrase) must be balanced with a parallel noun phrase, not a verb phrase.

Correction: She is not only an exceptional writer but also a remarkable leader who inspires those around her.

Q6 Ans: Error: 'have' should be 'has'. Rule 4 — Proximity rule: 'the finance department' (singular) is closer to the verb, so the verb must be singular.

Correction: Neither the logistics team nor the finance department has submitted the consolidated report.

Q7 Ans: Error: Comma before 'however' instead of a semicolon. Rule 12 — Conjunctive adverbs connecting two independent clauses require a semicolon before them and a comma after.

Correction: He studied diligently for months; however, he was unable to secure admission in any of the colleges.

Q8 Ans: Error: 'than' should be 'when'. Rule 6 — 'Scarcely' belongs to the 'Hardly/Scarcely/Barely' group, which takes 'when' or 'before', never 'than'.

Correction: Scarcely had the delegates taken their seats when the emergency session was adjourned.

Q9 Ans: Error: 'is' should be 'are'. Rule 5 — 'Both...and' always requires a plural verb regardless of whether the individual subjects are singular.

Correction: Both the approach and the methodology adopted by the research committee are fundamentally flawed.

Q10 Ans: Error: 'might' should be 'should'. Rule 11 — 'Lest' is always followed by 'should', not 'may', 'might', or 'would'.

Correction: Be extremely cautious in your speech lest you should offend the dignitaries present at this gathering.

Q11 Ans: Error: 'were' should be 'was'. Rule 15 — 'As well as' does not create a compound subject; the verb agrees with the first subject 'the manager' (singular).

Correction: The manager, as well as the entire team, was present for the all-hands meeting.

Q12 Ans: Error: 'yet' must not follow 'Though'. Rule 8 — 'Though/Although/Even though' must not be paired with 'but' or 'yet'; the conjunction already expresses contrast.

Correction: Though she had prepared thoroughly for the interview, she struggled to articulate her thoughts clearly under pressure.

Q13 Ans: Error: Comma before 'nevertheless' instead of a semicolon. Rule 12 — 'Nevertheless' is a conjunctive adverb; it requires a semicolon before it and a comma after it.

Correction: He was exhausted after the long journey; nevertheless, he insisted on attending the farewell dinner.

Q14 Ans: Error: 'is' should be 'are'. Rule 4 — Proximity rule: 'the secondary witnesses' (plural) is closest to the verb; so verb must be plural.

Correction: Either the prime witness or the secondary witnesses are expected to testify before the tribunal.

Q15 Ans: Error: 'than' should be 'when'. Rule 6 — 'Hardly' belongs to the group that takes 'when' or 'before', not 'than'.

Correction: Hardly had the new policy been announced when the opposition leaders convened a press conference.

CATEGORY 2 — FILL IN THE RIGHT WORD: Answers (Q16–Q30)

Q16 Ans: Correct Answer: B) When

The sentence describes a sequence of events — finishing, then submitting. 'When' correctly signals temporal sequence. 'Although' implies contrast (not intended). 'Because' implies reason but does not fit 'he submitted it without proofreading' as a logical cause-effect. 'Since' here would imply reason, not time, distorting the meaning.

Q17 Ans: Correct Answer: A) Unless

'Unless' means 'if not' and introduces the negative condition correctly. 'If not' is wordy and non-standard as a subordinating conjunction. 'Until' implies a time limit, not a condition — distorting the meaning. 'Without' takes a noun phrase, not a clause, making (D) structurally incorrect.

Q18 Ans: Correct Answer: B) than

Rule 6 — 'No sooner' always pairs with 'than'. 'When' (A) is the error targeted. 'Then' (C) is an adverb, not a conjunction — it cannot join clauses this way. 'Before' (D) is used with 'Hardly/Scarcely/Barely', not 'No sooner'.

Q19 Ans: Correct Answer: B) that

'So...that' is the correct result/degree structure. 'So deeply engrossed...that' expresses the degree of absorption and its consequence. 'As' (A) would create a comparison or manner clause, not a result clause. 'Which' (C) is a relative pronoun, not a conjunction for result. 'So' alone (D) would create a run-on.

Q20 Ans: Correct Answer: C) Once

'Once' means 'as soon as' or 'after', introducing the condition that triggers implementation — precise and logical. 'Although' (A) expresses contrast — illogical here. 'While' (B) implies simultaneity, not sequence/condition. 'Since' (D) implies reason or elapsed time, distorting the meaning.

Q21 Ans: Correct Answer: B) nor

'Neither...nor' is the correct correlative pair for negative alternatives. 'Or' (A) would require 'either', not 'neither'. 'And' (C) does not fit a negative correlative pair. 'But' (D) is a coordinating conjunction showing contrast, not a correlative element.

Q22 Ans: Correct Answer: C) rather than

'Rather than' correctly expresses preference between two parallel infinitive actions (resolve vs. escalate). 'Than' alone (A) needs a comparative adjective or adverb before it. 'Instead' (B) is an adverb, not a

conjunction — it cannot grammatically join two verb phrases here. 'Other than' (D) means 'except', which distorts the meaning.

Q23 Ans: Correct Answer: A) so / that

'So...that' expresses degree and result — the manner of clarity caused the students to understand. 'Such...that' (B) requires a noun ('such clarity that'), not an adverb. 'Very...that' (C) is not a standard result structure — 'very' is an intensifier, not part of a conjunction pair. 'Too...to' (D) expresses excess preventing an outcome — the opposite of what is intended.

Q24 Ans: Correct Answer: C) No matter how

'No matter how' introduces a concession clause meaning 'regardless of the degree' — precisely what the sentence expresses. 'Although' (A) introduces a full clause but cannot precede 'hard she tries' without a subject noun or pronoun awkwardly. 'However' (B) here would act as a conjunctive adverb requiring a preceding independent clause with a semicolon — structurally impossible at the start. 'Despite' (D) takes a noun phrase, not a clause.

Q25 Ans: Correct Answer: C) when

Rule 6 — 'Barely' belongs to the 'Hardly/Scarcely/Barely' group, which takes 'when' or 'before'. 'Than' (A) is reserved for 'No sooner'. 'Then' (B) is an adverb, not a conjunction. 'Before' (D) is technically possible with 'barely' but less standard than 'when' for simultaneous events.

Q26 Ans: Correct Answer: A) whether

'Whether...or' introduces an alternative covering both possibilities (registered domestically or abroad). 'If' (B) introduces a single condition, losing the alternative sense. 'Although' (C) implies contrast, which is illogical in this context. 'Unless' (D) introduces a negative condition — completely opposite in meaning.

Q27 Ans: Correct Answer: A) lest

'Lest' expresses fear of a negative consequence and takes 'should' — both requirements met by the sentence context. 'So that' (B) requires a positive purpose, not a fear of a negative outcome. 'In order' (C) is incomplete without 'to' and expresses positive purpose. 'Unless' (D) introduces a condition, not a feared consequence.

Q28 Ans: Correct Answer: A) however

Rule 12 — 'However' is the correct conjunctive adverb here because the structure is 'independent clause; however, independent clause'. 'But' (B) is a coordinating conjunction needing only a comma before it, not a semicolon — the semicolon before option B is already given, making the semicolon + 'but' combination non-standard. 'Although' (C) is a subordinating conjunction that changes the structural relationship entirely. 'Despite' (D) takes a noun phrase, not a clause.

Q29 Ans: Correct Answer: B) than

'Would rather...than' is the standard comparative structure expressing preference. 'Then' (A) is an adverb of time — a common and critical confusion. 'Instead' (C) is an adverb; it cannot serve as a conjunction in this position. 'But' (D) is a coordinating conjunction — it joins clauses, not comparative elements.

Q30 Ans: Correct Answer: C) Although

'Although' introduces a concessive (contrast) clause: the team performed well in the first half despite losing momentum after. 'Because' (A) would state that performing well caused loss of momentum — illogical. 'Since' (B) implies reason or elapsed time — neither fits the contrast intended. 'So' (D) implies result, reversing the logical direction.

CATEGORY 3 — CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE: Answers (Q31–Q45)

Q31 Ans: Correct Answer: (B)

B is correct. (A) violates Rule 8 — 'Although' must not be paired with 'but'. (C) 'Despite' takes a noun phrase (e.g., 'Despite having all the resources'), not a subject-verb clause. (D) violates Rule 8 — 'Though' must not be paired with 'yet'.

Q32 Ans: Correct Answer: (C)

C is correct. 'No sooner had...than' is the only valid construction (Rule 6). (A) uses 'when' after 'No sooner' — incorrect. (B) and (D) use 'than' after 'Hardly' and 'Scarcely' respectively — both violate Rule 6 (these require 'when').

Q33 Ans: Correct Answer: (B)

B is correct. 'The reason...is that' is the only grammatically sound construction (Rule 7). (A) uses 'because' after 'is' — redundant cause structure. (C) combines 'the reason why' and 'because' — doubly redundant. (D) uses 'because of' with a clause rather than a noun phrase.

Q34 Ans: Correct Answer: (C)

C is correct. Proximity rule (Rule 4): 'the principal' is closest to the verb; singular verb 'was' is correct. (A) 'the teachers' is closest, requiring plural 'were', but 'was' is used — wrong agreement. (B) places 'the teachers' last, but then uses 'were' — inversion of noun position changes which is closer. (D) uses 'have been' — the present perfect plural is incorrect.

Q35 Ans: Correct Answer: (B)

B is correct. 'Not only brilliant' (adjective) balanced with 'but also dignified' (adjective) — perfect parallelism (Rule 3). (A) 'brilliant' (adjective) vs. 'behaves with dignity' (verb phrase) — not parallel. (C) has incorrect word order — 'Not only she is' should be 'Not only is she' (inversion required). (D) 'but dignified also' — 'also' must immediately follow 'but', not follow the adjective.

Q36 Ans: Correct Answer: (C)

C is correct. Rule 12 — semicolon before 'however', comma after 'however'. (A) uses a comma before 'however' — creates a comma splice. (B) uses a semicolon before 'however' but has no comma after — punctuation is incomplete. (D) uses a comma on both sides — the comma before 'however' creates a comma splice between two independent clauses.

Q37 Ans: Correct Answer: (C)

C is correct. 'Unless you bring' is the correct form — no additional negative (Rule 10). (A) uses 'do not' inside the unless-clause — double negative error. (B) uses 'will bring' — 'unless' takes the present simple, not the future, in conditional clauses. (D) uses 'don't' — same double negative error as (A).

Q38 Ans: Correct Answer: (D)

D is correct. Rule 11 — 'lest' must be followed by 'should'. (A) uses 'may' — incorrect. (B) uses 'might' — incorrect. (C) uses 'would' — incorrect. Only 'should' is the prescribed modal after 'lest'.

Q39 Ans: Correct Answer: (B)

B is correct. Rule 5 — 'both...and' always requires a plural verb. (A) uses singular 'was' — violation of Rule 5. (C) uses singular 'is' — same violation. (D) incorrectly uses 'or' instead of 'and' within the 'both...' construction, destroying the correlative pair.

Q40 Ans: Correct Answer: (B)

B is correct. Rule 15 — 'as well as' does not create a compound subject; verb agrees with the first subject 'The CEO' (singular) — 'was' is correct. (A) uses 'were' — incorrect plural agreement. (C) omits the comma around 'as well as', altering the parenthetical nature of the phrase and potentially the meaning. (D) uses 'are' — plural verb with a singular first subject.

Q41 Ans: Correct Answer: (D)

D is correct. After a negative clause, 'nor' requires auxiliary-subject inversion (Rule 14): 'nor will he sign' is correct for future action. (A) uses 'nor he will sign' — no inversion, incorrect. (B) uses 'nor does he sign' — present simple tense, but the context requires future ('will sign'). (C) uses 'nor does he will sign' — double auxiliary error.

Q42 Ans: Correct Answer: (B)

B is correct. 'Than I' implies 'than I performed' — subject pronoun is correct when a verb is implied (Rule 13). (A) uses 'than me did' — 'me' is an object pronoun and cannot be the subject of 'did'. (C) 'than me' changes meaning to 'more accurately than she performed (the experiment on) me' — object pronoun changes the meaning entirely. (D) uses 'more accurate' — the adverb 'accurately' is required, not the adjective.

Q43 Ans: Correct Answer: (A)

A is correct. The subordinate clause 'When the committee announced the result' comes before the main clause, properly followed by a comma, then the main clause. (B) places 'when' after the main clause but with a comma — 'when' here becomes a relative/time adverb, and the comma before it is non-standard in this structure. (C) uses a semicolon after the subordinate clause — incorrect; a comma is required. (D) has inverted word order in the subordinate clause — ungrammatical.

Q44 Ans: Correct Answer: (B)

B is correct. 'While she enjoys cooking, she rarely has time for it' — 'while' expresses contrast/concession, and no additional conjunction is used. (A) pairs 'while' with 'however' — two contrast signals creating redundancy and punctuation error. (C) pairs 'while' with 'but' — same double conjunction error as pairing 'although' with 'but'. (D) uses 'Although while' — two subordinating conjunctions together, which is ungrammatical.

Q45 Ans: Correct Answer: (C)

C is correct. 'Not only completed...but also submitted' — both are past tense verbs, perfectly parallel (Rule 3). (A) uses 'have submitted' — tense shift creates non-parallelism. (B) is also acceptable in informal use, but the comma between 'not only' and 'but also' is unnecessary and slightly awkward; (C) is cleaner and fully correct. (D) places 'also' after 'submitted' — 'also' must immediately follow 'but', not be placed later in the clause.

CATEGORY 4 — ANALYSE, REWRITE & EXPLAIN: Answers (Q46–Q60)

Q46 Ans: Conjunction analysis in: 'He studied hard, yet he failed, so he decided to seek professional guidance because he did not want to repeat the mistake.'

'yet' — Coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS). Joins two independent clauses: 'He studied hard' and 'he failed'. Expresses unexpected contrast — expected result of studying is passing, but he failed.

'so' — Coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS). Joins two independent clauses expressing result/consequence: his failure led him to seek guidance.

'because' — Subordinating conjunction (reason/cause). Introduces the dependent clause 'he did not want to repeat the mistake', explaining why he sought guidance. The main clause is 'he decided to seek professional guidance'.

Sentence type: Compound-complex (two or more independent clauses + at least one dependent clause).

Q47 Ans: Corrected sentence: 'Although she had briefed the team thoroughly, many members were confused; however, they proceeded with the task.'

Error 1: 'but' removed after 'Although' — Rule 8: 'although' and 'but' cannot co-exist as they both express contrast; the contrast is already carried by 'although'.

Error 2: Comma changed to semicolon before 'however' — Rule 12: 'however' is a conjunctive adverb; it requires a semicolon before it and a comma after it when connecting two independent clauses.

Note: The comma after 'although' clause is retained correctly as the subordinate clause precedes the main clause (Rule 2).

Q48 Ans: Corrected paragraph with four errors identified and corrected:

Error 1: 'because' after 'is' — Rule 7. Correction: 'The reason we lost the contract is that we delayed.'

Error 2: 'do not' inside 'unless' clause — Rule 10. Correction: 'Unless we improve our delivery timelines, clients will leave.'

Error 3: 'have' after 'neither...nor' — Rule 4. Proximity rule: 'the management' (singular) is closest; verb must be 'has'. Correction: 'Neither the sales team nor the management has addressed this.'

Error 4: 'but' after 'Although' — Rule 8. Correction: 'Although the problem is clear, no one is acting.'

Full corrected passage: 'The reason we lost the contract is that we delayed. Unless we improve our delivery timelines, clients will leave. Neither the sales team nor the management has addressed this. Although the problem is clear, no one is acting.'

Q49 Ans: Analysis of pronoun case after 'than':

(a) 'She admires him more than I.' — Here 'than' introduces a comparison clause. The implied full sentence is 'She admires him more than I [admire him].' — 'I' is the subject of the implied verb 'admire'. Subject pronoun 'I' is grammatically correct.

(b) 'She admires him more than me.' — Here 'than me' implies 'more than [she admires] me.' — 'me' is the object of the implied verb 'admires'. Object pronoun 'me' is grammatically correct.

Conclusion: Both sentences are grammatically correct but express entirely different meanings. The choice of pronoun (I vs. me) changes who is being compared — the subject's action or the object receiving action.

Rule 13: After 'than' in comparisons, pronoun case must reflect the implied grammatical role in the omitted (elliptical) clause.

Q50 Ans: Conjunction type and relationship analysis:

(a) 'so that' — Subordinating conjunction of purpose. The dependent clause 'we could catch the train' explains the intention behind the action of leaving early.

(b) 'Whereas' — Subordinating conjunction of contrast. It introduces the dependent clause 'he is impulsive' and contrasts it with the independent clause about the colleague being methodical. It signals a direct, parallel contrast between two subjects.

(c) 'as if' — Subordinating conjunction of manner. It introduces a hypothetical comparison of how she speaks to how a director might speak. It requires the subjunctive mood ('were' instead of 'was') in formal grammar.

Q51 Ans: Error: 'when' should be 'than'. Correction: 'No sooner did the director enter the boardroom than all conversation abruptly came to a halt among the assembled executives.'

Rule 6: 'No sooner' is a negative adverbial of time indicating immediacy. It always pairs with 'than', not 'when', 'then', or 'before'. This is because 'no sooner...than' functions like a comparative construction: the first event is 'sooner' than the second.

Note also: 'No sooner' requires subject-auxiliary inversion in the first clause: 'No sooner did the director enter' (not 'the director entered'). The inversion is mandatory because 'no sooner' is a negative element fronted to the start of the clause.

Q52 Ans: Error: Singular verb 'is' after 'both...and'. Rule 5: 'both...and' always requires a plural verb.

Corrected sentence: 'Both the approach chosen by the team and the strategy outlined by the consultant are likely to succeed.'

Explanation: 'Both...and' creates a compound subject consisting of two elements — 'the approach' and 'the strategy'. Even though each is individually singular, the conjunction 'both...and' collectively makes the subject plural, demanding a plural verb 'are'.

This is in direct contrast to 'either...or' and 'neither...nor', which use the proximity rule. 'Both...and' has no proximity exception — it is always plural.

Q53 Ans: Rewritten sentences using the specified conjunction:

(a) He was hungry, so he ate a large meal. ['so' — coordinating conjunction of result]

(b) She is very fit because she runs every day. ['because' — subordinating conjunction of reason]

(c) Even if he works harder, he may not pass. ['even if' — subordinating conjunction of concession/condition]

(d) She likes neither coffee nor tea. ['neither...nor' — correlative conjunction of negative alternatives]

(e) He not only exercises daily but also maintains a strict diet. ['not only...but also' — correlative conjunction of addition with emphasis]

Q54 Ans: Error: Parallel structure broken with 'not only...but also'. 'Not only to restructure' (infinitive verb phrase) must be balanced with another infinitive verb phrase, not a full clause.

Corrected sentence: 'The CEO decided not only to restructure the sales division but also to build better client relationships.'

Explanation: Rule 3 — Correlative conjunctions must connect grammatically identical elements. Here, 'not only' precedes 'to restructure the sales division' (infinitive phrase). 'But also' must therefore precede 'to build better client relationships' (another infinitive phrase). The original sentence placed a full passive clause ('better client relationships would be built') after 'but also', which is a clause — not an infinitive phrase — breaking parallelism.

Q55 Ans: Grammatical distinction and corrections:

(a) 'He is tired, however he is working.' — INCORRECT. This is a comma splice: two independent clauses are joined by only a comma before a conjunctive adverb. Rule 12 requires a semicolon before 'however' and a comma after it. Correction: 'He is tired; however, he is working.'

(b) 'Although he is tired, but he is working.' — INCORRECT. Rule 8: 'Although' already expresses contrast; 'but' repeats the contrast, creating a double conjunction error. Correction: 'Although he is tired, he is working.'
Key distinction: 'However' is a conjunctive adverb — it connects two independent clauses with a semicolon. 'But' is a coordinating conjunction — it connects two independent clauses with only a comma. 'Although' is a subordinating conjunction — it creates a complex sentence without needing any second conjunction.

Q56 Ans: Corrected paragraph with all conjunction types labelled:

Error 1: 'does not' inside 'unless' clause — Rule 10. Correction: 'Unless he practises every day, he will not succeed.'

Error 2: 'has' should be 'have' — wait: 'his teammates' is plural and closer to the verb (proximity rule, Rule 4), so 'have' is actually correct here. However, 'has' is used in the original. Correction: 'Neither his coach nor his teammates have tried to motivate him.' (Proximity: 'teammates' is plural and closest.)

Error 3: 'because' after 'The reason is' — Rule 7. Correction: 'The reason is that he lacks confidence.'

Error 4: 'but' after 'although' — Rule 8. Correction: 'although he has talent, he wastes it.'

Full corrected paragraph: 'Unless [subordinating — condition] he practises every day, he will not succeed. Neither his coach nor [correlative] his teammates have tried to motivate him. The reason is that [subordinating — noun clause] he lacks confidence, although [subordinating — contrast] he has talent, he wastes it.'

Q57 Ans: Student B ('are') is correct. Rule 4 — Proximity rule governs 'either...or'.

With 'either...or', the verb agrees with the subject CLOSEST to it. In 'Either the manager or the supervisors', the closest subject is 'the supervisors' (plural) — so the verb must be plural: 'are'.

Student A used 'is', agreeing with 'the manager' (farther subject) — this is incorrect.

Two more examples: (1) Either the directors or the CEO is attending the conference. (CEO is singular and closest — 'is' correct.) (2) Either the CEO or the directors are attending the conference. (Directors is plural and closest — 'are' correct.)

Important: The order of subjects matters enormously with this rule — reversing the order requires reversing the verb number.

Q58 Ans: Three rewrites of 'She is skilled. She lacks confidence.'

(a) Coordinating conjunction: 'She is skilled, but she lacks confidence.' — 'but' joins two independent clauses of equal rank, expressing contrast. Compound sentence.

(b) Subordinating conjunction: 'Although she is skilled, she lacks confidence.' — 'although' introduces the first as a concessive clause; the second is the main clause. Complex sentence.

(c) Correlative conjunction: 'She is not only skilled but also lacking in confidence.' OR more naturally: 'While she is skilled, she is neither confident nor assertive.' (The correlative pair 'not only...but also' works best when adding, not contrasting — so the coordinating or subordinating version is more natural for this contrast.)

Q59 Ans: Error: 'might' after 'lest'. Correction: 'She left early lest she should miss the flight.'

Rule 11: 'Lest' is a formal subordinating conjunction expressing fear of a negative consequence. It is a relic of the subjunctive mood — an older English grammatical form used for hypothetical, wished, or feared situations.

Historically, the clause after 'lest' used the bare subjunctive (base verb form without 'should'): 'lest she miss the flight'. In modern formal English, 'should' is inserted before the base verb: 'lest she should miss the flight'. Under no circumstances is 'may', 'might', 'would', or 'could' used after 'lest'.

Two more examples: (1) Drive carefully lest you should cause an accident. (2) She whispered lest she should wake the child.

Q60 Ans: Full analysis of: 'Although the committee had been informed well in advance, the decision was deferred because adequate documentation was not provided, and no member was willing to proceed without it.'

(a) Main clause: 'the decision was deferred' — this is the independent clause that can stand alone and forms the core statement.

(b) Subordinate clauses: (i) 'Although the committee had been informed well in advance' — concessive/contrast clause introduced by 'although' (subordinating conjunction of contrast); dependent clause. (ii) 'because adequate documentation was not provided' — reason/cause clause introduced by 'because' (subordinating conjunction); dependent clause explaining why the decision was deferred. (iii) 'and no member was willing to proceed without it' — coordinated independent clause joined to 'because' clause by 'and' — it co-ordinates with the 'because' clause, adding a second reason.

(c) Conjunctions identified: 'Although' — subordinating conjunction (concession/contrast). 'because' — subordinating conjunction (reason/cause). 'and' — coordinating conjunction (addition) joining the two reasons.

(d) Replacing with conjunctive adverb: 'Because' could be replaced: '...the decision was deferred; the reason being that adequate documentation was not provided.' Or: 'although' could be rephrased with 'nevertheless': 'The committee had been informed well in advance; nevertheless, the decision was deferred because adequate documentation was not provided, and no member was willing to proceed without it.' — Here

'nevertheless' (conjunctive adverb) + semicolon replaces 'although', converting a complex sentence opening into a compound-complex structure.

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