



The most important joining words

To make **compound** and **complex** sentences, you need a good selection of **conjunctions**, or joining words.

The 'magnificent seven' conjunctions (the most commonly used) are:

and, although, as, because, but, if, or

There are a number of other important conjunctions that you can use.

These can be put into categories of **time**, **place**, or **agreement**.

TIME = before, after, until, since, when, whenever, while

For example:

We all went home **before** a fight broke out.
She went to bed **after** she put the cat out.
There will be no peace **until** somebody says that they are sorry.
It has not been the same around here **since** our friends moved away.
They put the television off **when** the programme had finished.
He washes his new car **whenever** it gets mucky.
The children go to the crèche **while** Mum goes to work.

PLACE = where

For example: Remember that restaurant **where** you ate a huge steak.

AGREEMENT = though, although, whether

For example:

He could play the violin **though** he was only five years old.
I would invite you to come in **although** the place is a mess.
It was a great show **whether** you wanted to join in or just watch.

Remember:

- Avoid using the same conjunction over and over again. It's much better to 'mix and match'.
- The conjunction you use can **change the meaning of the sentence**. You can't use every conjunction everywhere - so choose wisely!