

CONJUNCTIONS

Coordinating Conjunctions

There are a total of 5 coordinating conjunctions in German.

These have no effect on word order, and they are not part of either of the two sentence they join.

Coordinating conjunctions can be thought of as a “cloud” that simply floats between two main clauses.

aber	<i>but (no mutual exclusion)</i>
denn	<i>because ... anyway (for it so happens that)</i>
oder	<i>or</i>
und	<i>and</i>
sondern	<i>rather, but (shows contrast, mutual exclusion)</i>

When using *sondern*, the first main clause must contain some sort of negation such as *nicht* or *kein*.

Subordinating Conjunctions

There are scores of subordinating conjunctions in German. This is only a partial list.

These take dependent word order, meaning the conjugated verb must appear at the end of the clause.

Think of subordinating conjunctions as “verb kickers.” They “kick” the verbs to the very end of their clause.

als ob	<i>(+ subjunctive) as if</i>
als wenn	<i>(+ subjunctive) as if</i>
als	<i>when (one occurrence in past time)</i>
außer dass	<i>except if, except when</i>
bevor	<i>before</i>
bis	<i>until</i>
da	<i>since, because</i>
damit	<i>so that, so</i>
dass	<i>that</i>
ehe	<i>before</i>
falls	<i>in case, if</i>
indem	<i>by (do)ing (something)</i>
nachdem	<i>after</i>
ob	<i>if, whether (or not) (indicates a choice)</i>
obwohl	<i>although</i>
seitdem	<i>since</i>
so dass	<i>as a result (so much that ...)</i>
sobald	<i>as soon as</i>
solange	<i>as long as, provided that</i>
sooft	<i>as often as</i>
soviel	<i>as much as</i>
soweit	<i>as far as</i>
während	<i>while</i>
warum	<i>why</i>
was	<i>what</i>
weil	<i>because (shows strong causality)</i>
wenn	<i>if, under the condition that</i>
weshalb	<i>why, for what reason</i>
wie lange	<i>how long</i>
wie	<i>how, as</i>
wie oft	<i>how often</i>
wieviel	<i>how much</i>
wo	<i>where (at)</i>
woher	<i>where (from)</i>
wohin	<i>where (to)</i>