

# PREPOSITIONS VERSUS CONJUNCTIONS

(a few examples with potential pitfalls)

Prepositions are connecting words. They connect nominals into a sentence.

Prepositions are words like: *on, over, to, from, about, for, against, with, between, etc.*

In general, a preposition “glues” a noun or pronoun into a sentence.

That is, a preposition is only able to connect a noun element into a sentence.

Conjunctions are also connecting words, but they can do much more than a preposition.

Conjunctions are words like: *and, but, or, because, then, etc.*

In contrast to a preposition, a conjunction can connect any two like elements together in a sentence.

Most notably, conjunctions have the ability to connect verbs together.

This means that conjunctions can connect two sentences together.

Identify in each sentence the semantic category of the underlined word.

Hints: If the underlined word brings into the sentence a noun or a pronoun, it's a preposition.

If the underlined word connects two sentences together, then it's a conjunction.

Biggest clue: If a verb is involved, you are most likely dealing with a conjunction.

1. After we ate, we went to the movie.
2. After the lecture, we went to the movie.
3. I've been living in Denver since last summer.
4. I've been living in Denver since my father died.
5. The plane had to land in Stuttgart because of the bad weather.
6. Because the weather was bad, the plane had to land in Stuttgart.
7. He stood before the judge and declared his innocence.
8. Before he declared his innocence, he looked at the judge for a long time.
9. Give yourself plenty of time, for the work is quite demanding.
10. Give yourself plenty of time for the work.
11. I've been working for a month.
12. While you were away, someone stole the lettuce in your garden.
13. During the day, I work many hours.
14. She wrote a letter instead of speaking.
15. She wrote a letter instead of a poem.
16. He left the room without his wife.
17. He left the room without taking his wife.

## *Prepositions vs. Conjunctions · Key to Exercises*

1. After **we ate**, we went to the movie.  
CONJUNCTION
2. After the **lecture**, we went to the movie.  
PREPOSITION
3. I've been living in Denver since last **summer**.  
PREPOSITION
4. I've been living in Denver since **my father died**.  
CONJUNCTION
5. The plane had to land in Stuttgart because of the bad **weather**.  
PREPOSITION
6. Because **the weather was bad**, the plane had to land in Stuttgart.  
CONJUNCTION
7. He stood before the **judge** and declared his innocence.  
PREPOSITION
8. Before **he declared his innocence**, he looked at the judge for a long time.  
CONJUNCTION
9. Give yourself plenty of time, for **the work is quite demanding**.  
CONJUNCTION
10. Give yourself plenty of time for the **work**.  
PREPOSITION
11. I've been working for a **month**.  
PREPOSITION
12. While **you were away**, someone stole the lettuce in your garden.  
CONJUNCTION
13. During the **day**, I work many hours.  
PREPOSITION
14. She wrote a letter instead of **speaking**.  
(TRICK !!!) This is a special verb oriented conjunction. It brings in the verb *speaking*.
15. She wrote a letter instead of a **poem**.  
PREPOSITION
16. He left the room without his **wife**.  
PREPOSITION
17. He left the room without **taking** his wife.  
(TRICK !!!) This is a special verb oriented conjunction. It brings in the verb *taking*.

Color Coding:

**Magenta** identifies a noun that is the object of a preposition.

**Blue** identifies a sentence connected to another sentence via a conjunction.

**Green** identifies a verb - in these instances, the present participle of a verb.