

Correlative Conjunctions (Either/Or, Neither/Nor, Both/And)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Correlative conjunctions come in PAIRS: either/or, neither/nor, both/and, not only/but also, whether/or. The two parts they join must be PARALLEL — same kind of word or phrase on each side (noun + noun, verb + verb, phrase + phrase). Mixing a noun with a verb phrase breaks parallelism.

PRACTICE

Choose the sentence with the correct correlative conjunction.

- Which sentence uses correlative conjunctions with PARALLEL structure?
 - Either we leave at noon or eating lunch first.
 - Either we leave at noon or we eat lunch first eating.
 - Either we leave at noon or we eat lunch first.
 - Either leave at noon or we are eating lunch first.
- Which sentence uses 'neither/nor' correctly?
 - Neither the coach nor the players were happy with the call.
 - Neither the coach or the players were happy with the call.
 - Neither the coach nor the players was happy with the call.
 - Either the coach nor the players were happy with the call.
- Which is the BEST way to combine these two sentences using a correlative conjunction? 'Tara plays the violin. Tara plays the cello.'
 - Tara not only plays the violin but is also a cello.
 - Tara plays both the violin and the cello.
 - Tara plays either the violin or the cello.
 - Tara plays neither the violin nor the cello.
- Which sentence has CORRECT parallel structure?
 - She not only enjoys reading mysteries but to write them too.
 - She not only enjoys reading mysteries but also writing them at home.
 - She enjoys not only reading mysteries but also to write them.
 - She not only enjoys reading mysteries but also enjoys writing them.



5. Which sentence uses 'either/or' correctly?
- A. Either we ride our bikes nor we walk to the field.
 - B. Either ride our bikes or to walk to the field.
 - C. Either we ride our bikes or we walk to the field.
 - D. We ride our bikes either or we walk to the field.
6. Which sentence agrees correctly?
- A. Either the twins or their cousin is bringing the cake.
 - B. Either the twins or their cousin are bringing the cake.
 - C. Either the twins nor their cousin is bringing the cake.
 - D. Both the twins or their cousin is bringing the cake.
7. Which sentence uses 'whether/or' correctly?
- A. We have not decided neither we will hike nor camp this weekend.
 - B. We have not decided whether we will hike or camp this weekend.
 - C. We have not decided whether to hike but to camp this weekend.
 - D. We have not decided either we will hike whether camp this weekend.
8. Which combined sentence keeps PARALLEL structure?
- A. Both jogging in the morning and to swim at night keep Mia healthy.
 - B. Both jogging in the morning and swims at night keep Mia healthy.
 - C. Both to jog in the morning and swimming at night keep Mia healthy.
 - D. Both jogging in the morning and swimming at night keep Mia healthy.
9. Which sentence uses correlative conjunctions correctly?
- A. Not only did Diego finish his project early, but he also helped his classmates.
 - B. Not only Diego finished his project early, but also helping his classmates.
 - C. Not only Diego did finish his project early, but also helped he his classmates.
 - D. Not only finishing his project early, but Diego also helped his classmates.
10. Combine these two sentences using the correlative conjunction 'neither/nor': 'Maya did not bring her lunch. Maya did not bring her water bottle.'



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9 A B C D
- 10

Explanations

1. C	Parallel structure: 'we leave at noon' / 'we eat lunch first' — both are independent clauses. A pairs a clause with the gerund 'eating'. B doubles 'eating' awkwardly. D pairs a command 'leave' with a different sentence type.
2. A	'Neither' must pair with 'nor' (not 'or'); the verb agrees with the CLOSER subject ('players' → plural 'were'). A is correct. B uses 'or' instead of 'nor'. C uses singular 'was' with plural 'players'. D mismatches 'either...nor' (the pairs don't cross).
3. B	Both sentences say Tara plays each instrument, so 'both/and' fits. A breaks parallelism (verb phrase + noun). C says ONE OR THE OTHER (not the original meaning). D says NEITHER (the opposite meaning).
4. D	After 'not only' is 'enjoys reading' (verb + gerund); after 'but also' must match: 'enjoys writing' (verb + gerund). D matches. A and C mix gerund 'reading' with infinitive 'to write'. B drops the second verb 'enjoys', breaking parallelism.
5. C	Correct pair 'either/or' joining two parallel clauses: 'we ride...' / 'we walk...'. A wrongly pairs 'either' with 'nor'. B mixes a command with an infinitive. D misplaces 'either' so the structure breaks.
6. A	With either/or, the verb agrees with the CLOSER subject ('cousin' → singular 'is'). A is correct. B uses plural 'are' with singular 'cousin'. C wrongly pairs 'either...nor'. D wrongly pairs 'both...or' and uses 'is'.
7. B	'Whether' pairs with 'or' to present alternatives. B follows the pattern. A confuses 'neither/nor' with the indirect-question structure. C pairs 'whether' with 'but'. D scrambles 'either' and 'whether'.
8. D	After 'both' is 'jogging' (gerund + phrase), so after 'and' must also be a gerund + phrase: 'swimming at night'. D matches. A pairs gerund with infinitive. B pairs gerund with verb. C pairs infinitive with gerund.
9. A	After 'Not only' at the start, English flips the helper and subject ('did Diego finish'); after 'but... also' a parallel clause follows ('he also helped'). A is correct. B drops the inversion and shifts to a gerund. C scrambles the word order. D pairs a phrase with a clause — not parallel.
10.	Answer: Maya brought neither her lunch nor her water bottle. Accept any sentence that uses the EXACT pair 'neither...nor', joins two PARALLEL noun phrases (lunch / water bottle), and removes the double negative (don't keep 'did not'). Mark wrong if the student writes 'neither...or', uses 'did not bring neither' (double negative), or pairs a noun with a verb phrase.

