

## Using Correlative Conjunctions

Some things just go together—right and left, hammer and nails, or rock and roll, for instance. One half of the pair isn't much good without the other. Each one of the pair needs the other to function. **Correlative conjunctions** are connecting words that come in pairs. When you use one, you usually use the other.

### Correlative conjunctions

both... and	not only...but also	either...or
neither...nor	whether...or	

You can use correlative conjunctions to show relationships between ideas of equal importance. Use not only...but also or both...and to indicate an additional important idea.

<b>Original:</b>	We did a lot of sightseeing. We visited our relatives as well.
<b>Combined:</b>	Not only did we do a lot of sightseeing, but we also visited our relatives.

Use either...or, neither...nor, or whether...or to indicate a choice between alternatives.

<b>Original:</b>	My photograph showed a sandy beach and palm trees. It was the most perfect beach in the world!
<b>Combined:</b>	My photograph showed a sandy beach—the most perfect beach in the world!—and palm trees.

A dash can also mean namely, that is, or in other words.

<b>Original:</b>	We tried to decide. We could buy shoes or a jacket to take home.
<b>Combined:</b>	We tried to decide whether to buy shoes or a jacket to take home.

NOTE: Keep in mind that you may need to change a word or two when you use correlative conjunctions to combine sentences. Be sure to read your revision over carefully so that you can smooth out any bumps.

**DIRECTIONS** Use correlative conjunctions to combine the following sets of sentences.

For the first five items, use the correlative conjunctions in parentheses.

For the second five items, use the correlative conjunctions that best fit the meaning of the sentences.

<b>EXAMPLE</b>	My cousin and I visited our relatives in Italy last summer. We toured some of Italy's most famous cities. (not only...but also)
	<b>My cousin and I not only visited our relatives in Italy last summer, but we also toured some of Italy's</b>

1. Our trip to Italy introduced us to a beautiful country. It allowed us to see some magnificent art. (not only...but also)

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2. We stayed at the homes of relatives. We found inexpensive hotels that catered to students. (either...or)

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3. Our inability to speak Italian fluently did not discourage us. Our inexperience with foreign travel didn't discourage us. (neither...nor)

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4. Because our time was limited, we had to decide. We could spend a few hours or a few days in each city. (whether...or)

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5. While we were in Rome, we visited the Colosseum. We also visited the Vatican Museum. (both...and)

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6. We went to St. Peter's Basilica. We climbed to the top of the dome.

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7. In Florence, we spent our time in museums. We window-shopped and drank hot chocolate at outdoor cafes.

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8. The road from Florence to Pisa is short. It is also scenic.

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9. The famous Leaning Tower of Pisa does lean. It is also in real danger of collapsing.

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10 At the end of our stay, we had to decide. We could fly home with a stop in Paris, or we could travel by train through Europe and leave from Brussels.

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## Using Correlative Conjunctions

## Answer Key

### Answer Keys:

Answers will vary. These are sample answers.

1. **Our trip to Italy not only introduced us to a beautiful country, but it also allowed us to see some magnificent art.**
2. **We either stayed at relatives' homes or found inexpensive hotels that catered to students.**
3. **Neither our inability to speak Italian fluently nor our inexperience with foreign travel discouraged us.**
4. **Because our time was limited, we had to decide whether to spend a few hours or a few days in each city.**
5. **While we were in Rome, we visited both the Colosseum and the Vatican Museum.**
6. **Not only did we go to St. Peter's Basilica, but we also climbed to the top of the dome.**
7. **In Florence, we either spent our time in museums or window-shopped and drank hot chocolate at outdoor cafes.**
8. **The road from Florence to Pisa is both short and scenic.**
9. **Not only does the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa lean, but it is also still in danger of collapse.**
10. **At the end of our stay, we had to decide whether to fly home with a stop in Paris or travel by train through Europe and leave from Brussels.**