

## Conjunctions 1

**Class Objective:-** I will be able to understand and use conjunctions in sentences.

### Concept A- what is Conjunction?

Conjunctions can be used to connect words, phrases, clauses, and even entire sentences. They themselves cannot act as sentence elements. Instead, they come between the elements to connect them in some way. Unlike English, Chinese conjunctions need to have something next to them, so they cannot just be at the end of the sentence, as sometimes happens in English. Unlike adjectives and verbs, conjunctions are not reduplicated.

### Concept B - Functions of Chinese conjunctions

conjunctions connect ideas and can show the relationship between them. Some of the more commonly expressed relationships include coordination (and), causality (so), condition (because), supposition (if), alternation (or), and succession (then). Less common relationships include inference, transition, concession, enumeration, and progression.

### Concept C- Types of Conjunctions

1. And (和 – hé)- This is the most common way to express “and” in Chinese, but it’s not the only way. For now, just remember that the word 和 (hé) is mainly used to link nouns.
  - She has been to Beijing and Shanghai.  
她去过北京和上海。  
tā qù guò běi jīng hé shàng hǎi
  - I like tea and coffee.  
我喜欢茶和咖啡。  
wǒ xǐ huān chá hé kā fēi
  - Are you and he both students?  
你和他都是学生吗?  
nǐ hé tā dōu shì xué shēng ma
2. Or (或者 – huò zhě; 还是 – hái shì)  
The word “or” is a bit tricky in Chinese. If it’s a statement, you use 或者 (huò zhě); if it’s a question, you use 还是 (hái shì). Let’s take a look at two examples of each to better understand the usage of “or.”
  - We want to go to the park or the cinema.  
我们要去公园或者电影院。  
wǒ men yào qù gōng yuán huò zhě diàn yǐng yuàn
  - Do you want to eat noodles or rice?  
你想吃面还是米饭?  
nǐ xiǎng chī miàn hái shì mǐ fàn
  - We can go hiking tomorrow or the day after.

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