Conjunctions

Words that join other words, phrases, or clauses are called **conjunctions**. These are used a great deal in English composition. In any sentence or paragraph conjunctions are fairly easy to recognize, particularly once other parts of speech have been determined. The most common conjunctions are “**and**”, “**or**”, “**nor**” and “**but**”. In some sentences the words “**for**” (meaning “because”), “**yet**” (meaning “but”), and “**as well as**” (meaning “and”) are used as conjunctions, but in other sentences they are not.

**Examples:**

- His mother **and** father are visiting him.
  - The conjunction **and** joins two nouns.

- The cat could be hiding under the bed **or** behind the couch.
  - The conjunction **or** joins two adverb phrases.

- Harry is a good swimmer, **but** he can’t dive very well.
  - The conjunction **but** joins two clauses (which look like sentences).

**EXERCISES:**

A. Underline the conjunctions in these sentences. Be careful!

**Example:** If you don’t have any dimes **or** quarters, you can go into the bank and a teller will make change for you.

1) Len is taking piano lessons and his sister is learning to play the violin.
2) I’m scared of small spaces, for I’m worried I won’t be able to breathe.
3) George and John watched TV, but their sisters couldn’t decide whether to go to the movies or to the mall.
4) He was very tired, yet he carried on with his work.
5) Faranak and Consuela can read almost as well as I can.
6) You must obey the laws, or you will get into trouble.
7) I’m going to the hospital for an appointment, to the supermarket to pick up cheese and milk, so I can make macaroni.

**SOLUTIONS**

A. 1) **and**  2) **for**  3) **and**, **but**, **or**  4) **yet**,  5) **and**  6) **or**  7) **and**, **so**