

English Grammar for Latin

Conjunctions

A **conjunction** is used to *join* nouns, phrases or sentences. There are two main types, coordinating and subordinating.

Coordinating conjunctions are: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

These are used to join nouns together: fish *and* chips -
or sentences: We are learning Latin *but* they are learning French.

Subordinating conjunctions are: after, although, because, whether.

They are used to join subordinate clauses to main ones. A **clause** is a grammatical structure containing a subject and a verb, which makes sense on its own. A subordinate clause is a clause which, although containing a subject and verb, relies on the main clause to give it context and meaning.

E.g.

I was swimming.

(clause)

It was hot.

(clause)

I was swimming *because* it was hot.

(main clause with a subordinate clause, explaining *why* I was swimming)

Prepositions

A **preposition** is a little word placed in front of a noun or pronoun that tells us how that word fits in relation to the other words in the sentence.

E.g. *Under* the table, *on* the floor, *in* the water

In English we use prepositions to create the meanings of some of the cases (genitive, dative and ablative) for our nouns and pronouns which in Latin require different endings. Thus when we create the genitive case in English, we use the preposition 'of'. For the dative, we use the prepositions 'to' or 'for'. For the ablative, we use 'with', 'by' or 'from'.

One thing to note about prepositions is that the noun or pronoun that comes after them is always put in an oblique case, not the nominative case. Luckily this doesn't affect us much in English, because nouns do not have different forms for the different cases. But with pronouns, it *does* matter.

E.g. He is walking with me.
She is walking with her.
They are walking with us.
We are playing with them.

People often wonder whether to say:

They were working with you and me.

or

They were working with you and I.

If you know the rule about prepositions being followed by an oblique case, you won't have trouble with that.