

## What Are Correlative Conjunctions?

**Correlative Conjunctions** work in pairs to join words and groups of words of equal grammatical weight within a sentence. By using correlative conjunctions rather than coordinating conjunctions, the meaning between the words or groups of words is a little clearer. Study the chart below to become more familiar with correlative conjunctions.

| Correlative Conjunctions |                   |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| both . . . and           | just as . . . so  | not only . . . but also |
| either . . . or          | neither . . . nor | whether . . . or        |
| as . . . as              | not . . . but     | no sooner . . . than    |

Here are some examples showing how correlative conjunctions work differently than coordinating conjunctions.

| Coordinating Conjunction     | Correlative Conjunction                        |
|------------------------------|--|
| She <b>and</b> I were there. | <b>Both</b> she <b>and</b> I were there.       |
| I met Jean <b>and</b> Ed.    | I met <b>not only</b> Jean <b>but also</b> Ed. |
| She <b>or</b> I can go.      | <b>Neither</b> she <b>nor</b> I can go.        |

### Examples:

**No sooner** had I opened my umbrella **than** the rain stopped.

I haven't decided **whether** I will go to computer camp **or** band camp this summer.

**Both** elves **and** unicorns live in the forest.

Max **not only** wants to be a surgeon, **but also** wants to play professional football.

**Just as** people are interest in the weather forecast today, **so** people thousands of years ago tried to predict weather conditions.

### FROM *THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO* BY ALEXANDRE DUMAS



Rob Ferrel cuts hair or does he create art--2014--Ashley Landis--Reuters

direct gift of providence, as they have no visible means of support. It is fair to assume that Dantes was on board a smuggler.

Dantes had not been a day on board before he had a very clear idea of the men with whom his lot had been cast. Without having been in the school of the Abbe Faria, the worthy master of The Young Amelia (the name of the Genoese tartan) knew a smattering of all the tongues spoken on the shores of that large lake called the Mediterranean, from the Arabic to the Provençal, and this, while it spared him interpreters, persons always troublesome and frequently indiscreet, gave him great facilities of communication, **either** with the vessels he met at sea, with the small boats sailing along the coast, **or** with the people without name, country, or occupation, who are always seen on the quays of seaports, and who live by hidden and mysterious means which we must suppose to be a