

**Copulative Conjunctions:** The conjunctive relation of units that expresses the addition and/or connection of meanings.

*and:*

と、(to)  
や、(ya)  
そして (soshite)

*also:*

も、(mo)  
もまた (mo mata)

*then:*

そして、(soshite)  
それから (sorekara)

*or:*

または、(mata wa)  
また (mata)

**Disjunctive Conjunctions:** The conjunctive relation of units that expresses the disjunction of their meanings.

-or, -or : -ka, -ka ヲ か、 ..か  
-and, -and : -ya, -ya ヲ や、 ..や

**Adversative Conjunctions:** The conjunctive relation of units that expresses the opposition of their meanings.

*but:*

しかし、(shikashi)  
が、(ga)  
けど (kedo)  
けれども (keredomo)  
なのに (nanoni)  
でも (demo)

*however:*

しかしながら、(shikashinagara)  
ところが (tokoroga)

*despite:*

にもかかわらず (nimokakawarazu)

**Conclusive Conjunctions**

*so:*

それで、(sorede)  
なので (nanode)

*and then:*

それから、(sorekara)  
その後 (sonogo)

*therefore:*

それゆえに、(soreyue ni)  
だから、(dakara)  
したがって (shitagatte)

*thus:*

ゆえに、(yue ni)  
したがって (shitagatte)

### Conjunctions to Correlate Similar Thoughts

"*to*" : This word means “and.” It simply adds one thing to another.

Tēburu no ue *ni* ringo *to* orengi *to* banana ga arimasu.  
There are apples, oranges, and bananas on the table.

"*ya*" : This word means “and.” It adds one thing to another.

Tēburu no ue ni ringo *ya* orengi ga arimasu.  
There are apples and oranges on the table.

"*soshite*": This word means “and.” It adds things to each other, like the last words. It can also mean “thus” and “and then.”

Tēburu no ue ni ringo *to* orengi, *soshite* banana ga arimasu.  
There are apples, oranges, and bananas on the table.

### Conjunctions to Express Condition

*moshi* : It means simply “if,” but it can also mean “in case” and “supposing.”

*Moshi* ashita ame ga furu nara, pikunikku wa chūshi desu.  
If it rains tomorrow, the picnic will be cancelled.

*tara* : This word means “if,” and it denotes a condition.

Moshi jikan ga *attara*, eiga o mitai desu.  
If I have time, I want to watch a movie.

*nara* : This word means “if,” and it denotes a condition.

Kyōto e iku *nara*, Shinkansen de ikitai desu.  
If I go to Kyoto, I want to go by Shinkansen.

*suruto* : This word means “if,” and it denotes a condition. **すると** (*suruto*) can also mean “then.”

Kare ga maniawanai *suruto*, watashi-tachi wa kaigi o hajimeraremasen.  
If he can't come in time, we can't start a meeting.

### Conjunctions to Express Cause

*da kara / kara* : This word can mean “so,” “therefore,” or “thus.”

Ashita wa nichī-yōbi **da kara** shigoto wa shimasen.  
Tomorrow is Sunday, so I don't work.

Futoru **kara** kē-ki wa tabemasen.  
I will get fat, so I don't eat cakes.

*node* : This word means “so” or “thus.”

Karai **node** taberaremasen.  
It is spicy, so I can't eat it.

*tame / no tame* : This word can mean “because (of) ...” or “as a consequence of ...”

Takarakuji ga atatta **tame**, watashi wa kuruma o kaimashita.  
I bought a car because I won the lottery.

Yuki **no tame** densha wa okuremashita.  
Because of the snow, the train was delayed.

*nazenara* : This word means “because.”

Kanojo wa okotte kaerimashita. **Nazenara** kareshi ga uwaki shita no o shitta kara desu.  
She got angry and left, because she came to know her boyfriend had cheated on her.

### Conjunctions to Express Opposition

*shikashi / demo* : This word means “but” or “however.”

Kion wa hikuku samui desu. **Shikashi**, hana ga sakimashita.  
The temperature is low and it's cold. However, flowers bloom.

Soto wa atatakai. **Demo**, kaze wa tsumetai.  
It is warm outside. But the wind is cold.

*daga* : This word means “but” or “however.”

O-kane wa aru **ga**, ryokō suru jikan ga nai.  
I have money, but I don't have time to travel.

Haru wa suki desu. **Daga**, natsu wa suki de wa nai desu.  
I like spring. But I don't like summer.

*tokoroga / nanoni* : This word means “but” or “however.”

Kanojo wa benkyō o shinakatta. **Tokoroga**, shiken ni ukatta.  
She did not study. But she passed the examination.

Kare wa sensei da. **Nanoni**, eigo o hanasenai.  
He is a teacher. But he can't speak English.

*kedo / keredomo* : This word can mean “but,” “however,” “though,” and “although.”

Soto wa atatakai **kedo**, kaze wa tsumetai.  
It is warm outside, but the wind is cold.

### Conjunctions to Express Choices

*matawa / moshikuwa* : This word means “or” or “otherwise.”

Densha **matawa** basu de ikimasu.  
I will go by train or bus.

Kurejitto cādo **moshikuwa**, denshi kessai de o-shiharai kudasai.  
Please pay by credit card or through an electric payment.

*ka* : This word means “or,” or “whether...or.”

Ima resutoran wa aite iru **ka**, shimatte iru ka, shitte imasu ka.  
Do you know if the restaurant is open or closed now?

*aruwa* : This word means “or” or “alternatively.”

Watashi wa rainen Ōsaka **aruwa** Nagoya e tenkin ni narimasu.  
I will be transferred to Osaka or Nagoya next year.

### Other Useful Japanese Conjunctions

*tokorode* : This word means “by the way.”

**Tokorode**, konshūmatsu wa nani ka yotei arimasu ka.  
By the way, do you have any plans for this weekend?

*ippō de* : This phrase can mean “on the other hand,” “while,” or “meanwhile.”

Kanojo wa sushi ga suki desu. **Ippō de** kare wa piza ga suki desu.  
She likes sushi. On the other hand, he likes pizza.

*tatoeba* : This means “for example.”

Watashi no shumi wa supōtsu desu. **Tatoeba**, suiei to tenisu ga suki desu.  
My hobby is sports. For example, I like swimming and tennis.

*sarani / sonoue* : These words can mean “in addition” and “moreover.”

Nichi-yōbi ni kaimono e iki, **sarani** jimu e ikimashita.  
I went shopping, and moreover, I went to the gym on Sunday.