Conjunctions

What are Conjunctions?
Conjunctions are words that link related parts of a sentence.

Conjunctions That Introduce Subordinate Clauses
There are two kinds of words that introduce subordinate clauses:

1. Subordinating conjunctions
   - after
   - although
   - as
   - as if
   - as long as
   - as though
   - because
   - before
   - even if
   - even though
   - if
   - in order that
   - now that
   - once
   - rather than
   - since
   - than
   - through
   - till
   - unless
   - until
   - whenever
   - where
   - whereas
   - whenever
   - while

2. Relative pronouns
   - which
   - that
   - who (whose, whom)
   - what
   - whatever
   - whoever (whomever)

Conjunctions That Create Compound Sentences
There are two kinds of conjunctions that create compound sentences:

1. Coordinating conjunctions
   There are only seven words in English that can join two sentences together:
   - for
   - and
   - nor
   - but (Just remember “FANBOYS”)  
   - or
   - yet
   - so

   Note: When one of these coordinating conjunctions joins two sentences, a comma must precede the conjunction.
2. Correlative conjunctions

Both . . . and
Ex: Both Tylenol and massage therapy can relieve stress headaches.

Neither . . . nor
Ex: The procedure requires neither heat application nor a cold compress.

Not only . . . but also
Ex: The migraine sufferer learns not only to recognize the causes of headaches but also to control those causes.

Either . . . or
Ex: Either the safety kit in the bathroom or the one in the kitchen will have the medicine you need.

Not . . . but
Ex: It is not a sales invoice but a shipping invoice.

(Note: Usage is divided on whether or not one should place a comma before but in structures such as this one. We will use a comma before but only when but joins two independent clauses.)

Whether . . . or
Ex: Whether you attend the meeting or not will determine your participation in the program.

As . . . as
Ex: She is as bright as her older sister.

Remember:
Conjunctions are words that introduce subordinate clauses or create compound sentences.