

BELLTES ACADEMY

The Ultimate Conjunction & Syntax Guide
English & Afrikaans Alignment

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Afrikaans Syntactic Law (Voegwoordelike Reëls)

In Afrikaans, conjunctions are grouped entirely by how they change sentence word order (syntax). Mastering these rules ensures flawless verb placement.

Group 1: Coordinating Conjunctions (Neweskikkende Voegwoorde)

Rule: *The standard word order does not change. Both clauses retain their independent structure: Subject + Verb 1 + Object.*

Punctuation: *Always place a comma before want and maar. Never before en or of unless listing items.*

Group 2: Conjunctive Adverbs (Voegwoordelike Bywoorde)

Rule: *Triggers **Inversion**. The finite verb (Verb 1) shifts to stand immediately after the conjunction: Conjunction + Verb 1 + Subject + Object.*

Punctuation: *Precede Group 2 conjunctions with a semicolon (;) or a full stop.*

Group 3: Subordinating Conjunctions (Onderskikkende Voegwoorde)

Rule: *Sends **all verbs to the absolute end** of the clause. If auxiliary verbs are present, they cluster together.*

Sentence-Starting Rule: *If a sentence begins with a Group 3 word, the second clause must kick off immediately with its verb, creating a 'verb-comma-verb' pattern.*

1. Coordinating Conjunctions (Neweskikkende Voegwoorde)

Connects clauses or elements of equal grammatical rank. In Afrikaans (Group 1), word order remains normal.

English Conjunction	Afrikaans Equivalent & Rule Group
For	Want (Group 1)
And	En (Group 1)
Nor	En ook nie (Group 1) / Nòr
But	Maar (Group 1)
Or	Of (Group 1)
Yet	Dog / Tog (Group 1)
So	So / Dus (Group 1 / 2)

Dual-Language Sentence Examples:

• For / Want

EN: We stayed indoors, for it was pouring rain outside.

AF: *Ons het binne gebly, want dit het buite gegiet.*

EN: She decided to trust him, for he had never lied to her before.

AF: *Sy het besluit om hom te vertrou, want hy het haar nog nooit vantevore belieg nie.*

• And / En

EN: He ordered a burger and a side of fries.

AF: *Hy het 'n burger en 'n porsie skyfies bestel.*

EN: The technician fixed the router, and the internet came back online.

AF: *Die tegnikus het die roeteerder reggemaak, en die internet het weer aanlyn gekom.*

• Nor / En ook nie

EN: She does not eat dairy, nor does she eat meat.

AF: *Sy eet nie suiwel nie, en sy eet ook nie vleis nie.*

EN: They will not agree to the terms, nor will they compromise.

AF: *Hulle sal nie tot die voorwaardes instem nie, en hulle sal ook nie kompromieë aangaan nie.*

• But / Maar

EN: I wanted to go to the beach, but it started to storm.

AF: *Ek wou strand toe gaan, maar dit het begin storm.*

EN: The task was difficult, but she managed to finish it on time.

AF: *Die taak was moeilik, maar sy het dit reggekry om dit betyds te voltooi.*

- **Or / Of**

EN: You can have hot coffee, or you can choose iced tea.

AF: *Jy kan warm koffie kry, of jy kan ystee kies.*

EN: We must leave right now, or we will miss our flight.

AF: *Ons moet nou dadelik loop, of ons sal ons vlug mis.*

- **Yet / Dog**

EN: The movie received terrible reviews, yet it became a box office hit.

AF: *Die fliek het slegte resensies gekry, dog het dit 'n loket-treffer geword.*

EN: He studied for months, yet he still felt unprepared.

AF: *Hy het maande lank studeer, tog het hy steeds onvoorbereid gevoel.*

- **So / Dus**

EN: The store was closed, so we drove back home.

AF: *Die winkel was toe, so ons het terug huis toe gery.*

EN: He missed the last bus, so he had to take a taxi instead.

AF: *Hy het die laaste bus gemis, dus moes hy 'n taxi neem.*

2. Correlative Conjunctions (Voegwoordpare)

Pairs of words that coordinate phrases or words in a balanced, parallel grammatical setup.

English Conjunction	Afrikaans Equivalent & Rule Group
Both... and	Sowel... as
Either... or	Of... of
Neither... nor	Nòg... nòg
Not only... but also	Nie net nie... maar ook
Whether... or	Of... of

Dual-Language Sentence Examples:

• Both... and / Sowel... as

EN: Both the manager and the employee received a warning.

AF: Sowel die bestuurder as die werknemer het 'n waarskuwing ontvang.

EN: She is both a talented musician and a skilled painter.

AF: Sy is sowel 'n talentvolle musikant as 'n vaardige skilder.

• Either... or / Of... of

EN: Either you finish your homework now, or you cannot watch TV.

AF: Of jy voltooi jou huiswerk nou, of jy mag nie TV kyk nie.

EN: We can either dine in at the restaurant or order takeaway.

AF: Ons kan of by die restaurant eet of wegneemetes bestel.

• Neither... nor / Nòg... nòg

EN: Neither the public nor the local government supported the tax.

AF: Nòg die publiek nòg die plaaslike regering het die belasting ondersteun.

EN: He has neither the time nor the money to take a vacation.

AF: Hy het nòg die tyd nòg die geld om met vakansie te gaan.

• Not only... but also / Nie net nie... maar ook

EN: Not only did she win the marathon, but she also broke the record.

AF: Sy het nie net die marathon gewen nie, maar ook die baanrekord verbeter.

EN: The book is not only educational, but it is also entertaining.

AF: Die boek is nie net opvoedkundig nie, maar ook hoogs vermaaklik.

• Whether... or / Of... of

EN: I am going to buy this car whether you approve of it or not.

AF: Ek gaan hierdie motor koop of jy dit goedkeur of nie.

EN: We need to decide whether to stay home or go out tonight.

AF: Ons moet besluit of ons tuis gaan bly of vanaand uitgaan.

3. Subordinating Conjunctions (Onderskikkende Voegwoorde)

Connects an independent clause to a dependent clause. In Afrikaans (Group 3), these shift all verbs to the absolute end.

English Conjunction	Afrikaans Equivalent & Rule Group
Because	Omdat (Group 3)
Since	Aangesien (Group 3)
Although / Even though	Alhoewel / Hoewel (Group 3)
If	As / Indien (Group 3)
Unless	Tensy (Group 3)
While / Whereas	Terwyl (Group 3)
After	Nadat (Group 3)
Before	Voordat (Group 3)
Until	Totdat (Group 3)
When	Wanneer / Toe (Group 3)

Dual-Language Sentence Examples:

• Because / Omdat

EN: The game was postponed because the field was completely flooded.

AF: Die wedstryd is uitgestel omdat die veld heeltemal oorstroom was.

EN: I stayed home because I was feeling ill.

AF: Ek het tuis gebly omdat ek siek gevoel het.

• Since / Aangesien

EN: Since you are already heading upstairs, bring down my jacket.

AF: Aangesien jy reeds op pad boontoe is, kan jy my baadjie afbring.

EN: Since we have extra time, we can stop for coffee.

AF: Aangesien ons ekstra tyd het, kan ons vir koffie stop.

• Although / Alhoewel

EN: Although he was exhausted, he stayed up late to finish his project.

AF: Alhoewel hy uitgeput was, het hy laat opgeby om sy projek klaar te maak.

EN: She smiled although she was sad inside.

AF: Sy het geglimlag alhoewel sy van binne hartseer was.

- **If / As**

EN: If it rains tomorrow, our outdoor picnic will be cancelled.

AF: *As dit môre reën, sal ons buitelugpiekniek gekanselleer word.*

EN: We will go out if you finish your work early.

AF: *Ons sal uitgaan as jy jou werk vroeg klaarmaak.*

- **Unless / Tensy**

EN: You will not pass the final exam unless you start studying.

AF: *Jy sal nie die eindeksamen slaag nie, tensy jy begin studeer.*

EN: We are going to the park unless it rains.

AF: *Ons gaan park toe, tensy dit reën.*

- **While / Terwyl**

EN: While I prefer classical music, my brother loves heavy metal.

AF: *Terwyl ek klassieke musiek verkies, hou my broer van swaarmetaal.*

EN: He read a book while he waited for the train.

AF: *Hy het 'n boek gelees terwyl hy voor die trein gewag het.*

- **After / Nadat**

EN: We went out for ice cream after the movie ended.

AF: *Ons het vir roomys uitgegaan nadat die flik geëindig het.*

EN: After he ate breakfast, he went to work.

AF: *Nadat hy ontbyt geëet het, het hy werk toe gegaan.*

- **Before / Voordat**

EN: Check your work before you submit it.

AF: *Gaan jou werk na voordat jy dit indien.*

EN: They left before the sun rose.

AF: *Hulle het vertrek voordat die son opgekom het.*

- **Until / Totdat**

EN: Do not open the oven door until the timer rings.

AF: *Moenie die oondeur oopmaak totdat die tydteller lui nie.*

EN: We waited until the rain stopped.

AF: *Ons het gewag totdat die reën opgehou het.*

- **When / Wanneer**

EN: Call me when you arrive at the airport.

AF: *Bel my wanneer jy by die lughawe aankom.*

EN: When the lights went out, everyone screamed.

AF: *Toe die ligte uitgaan, het almal geskreeu.*

4. Conjunctive Adverbs (Voegwoordelike Bywoorde)

Transition words connecting thoughts between complete clauses. In Afrikaans (Group 2), they require subject-verb inversion.

English Conjunction	Afrikaans Equivalent & Rule Group
Therefore / Consequently	Daarom / Gevolglik / Dus (Group 2)
However / Nonetheless	Egter / Nietemin (Group 2)
Moreover / Furthermore	Boonop / Verder (Group 2)
Otherwise	Anders / Andersins (Group 2)

Dual-Language Sentence Examples:

• Therefore / Daarom

EN: The company lost a contract; therefore, profits dropped.

AF: Die maatskappy het 'n kontrak verloor; daarom het winste gedaal.

EN: He broke the rules; therefore, he was punished.

AF: Hy het die reëls oortree; daarom is hy gestraf.

• However / Egter

EN: I respect your opinion; however, I completely disagree.

AF: Ek respekteer jou mening; ek stem egter heeltemal ooreen.

EN: The sun was shining; however, it was still quite cold.

AF: Die son het geskyn; dit was nietemin nog redelik koud.

• Moreover / Boonop

EN: This phone has an amazing camera; moreover, the battery lasts.

AF: Hierdie foon het 'n ongelooflike kamera; boonop hou die battery lank.

EN: The house is beautiful; furthermore, it is near a great school.

AF: Die huis is pragtig; verder is dit naby 'n uitstekende skool.

• Otherwise / Anders

EN: You must back up your files; otherwise, you risk losing data.

AF: Jy moet jou lêers rugsteun; anders waag jy dit om data te verloor.

EN: Please run; otherwise, you will be late for class.

AF: Hardloop asseblief; anders gaan jy laat wees vir die klas.