

Correct use of some conjunctions

Since as a conjunction

As a conjunction since can refer to time.

Many things have happened since I left Mumbai.

I have never seen them since that unfortunate event happened.

When since is used as a conjunction, it should be preceded by a present perfect tense and followed by a verb in the past indefinite tense.

Or

The conjunction 'or' is used to introduce an alternative.

You must work or starve.

You may take this coat or that one.

The conjunction 'or' is nearly equivalent to 'and'.

Our troops were not wanting in strength or courage, but they were badly fed.

If

If can mean 'on the condition that'.

If he is here, we will meet him.

If he wants to succeed, he has to work hard.

If can mean 'whether'.

He asked me if I would help him.

If can also be used to express a wish or surprise.

If only I knew more people.

That

That is a demonstrative pronoun. It is also used as a conjunction. As a conjunction, that has retained much of its force as a relative pronoun.

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Hence the sentence *'I heard that you were looking for a job'* may be transposed into *'You were looking for a job: I heard that.'*

The conjunction *that* can be used as an equivalent to *because*.

He was annoyed *that* he was contradicted. (= He was annoyed *because* he was contradicted.)
That can also express a purpose.

We eat *that* we may live.

We sow *that* we may reap.

He kept quiet *that* the argument would stop.