Conjunctions – Voegwoorde

With regards to conjunctions, there are three groups and with each group, comes a difference in the sentence that you use. It’s highly recommended that you learn at least two of the groups off by heart, because then you can assume that the word which you do not notice is in the group which you have not yet memorized. It can get a bit complicated, so pay careful attention.

**Group 1:**

With regards to group 1, it’s obviously the simplest of the three, and the conjunctions in this group are only a few; therefore easier to remember. With group 1, there is no change in the word structure of the sentence, and the only type of punctuation that it gets, is a comma. There is a “trick” to learning these words: “meow-dog,” where “meow” refers to the words “maar, en, of, want” and “dog” refers to the actual word, “dog.” These are the words to remember:

Maar
En
Of
Want
Dog
Of...of
Nog...nog
Sowel...as

Now the latter three look, and actually are a bit different. Let’s use an example of those before the latter three: “Die boom is klein, maar dit is sterk.” Whereas with the latter three, it will look like this: “Sowel Jan as Piet is honger.” However, because ‘nog...nog’ is a negative it will look like this: “Hy is nog honger nog dors. Remember: Usually with negatives, there is a ‘nie’ at the end, but if this is done, it will form a double negative and the sentence will no longer make sense.

**Group 2:**

With regards to group two, this is the other group that I recommend that you learn, because there’s an “easy” way to remember this: 3 d’s, “adding ant,” and the two exceptions: “toe,” and “buitendien.” What? Pay careful attention to the list. Group two is a bit of a difficult one to not only remember, but the punctuation gets a bit tricky, too. Why? Every word in this group will get a semi-colon, excluding “al” and “toe.” With group two, the first part of the sentence will remain the same, and the conjunction will come immediately after the first part of the sentence with its appropriate punctuation mark. The verb which was in the second sentence which they asked you to join to the first sentence will go immediately after the conjunction. Here are the words in group two:
Dan
Daarna
Dus
Anders
Derhalwe
Daarom
Intussen
Nietemin
Gevolglik
Al
Nogtans
Tog
Toe
Buitendien

This is an example of how it should be applied: “Die man het niks gedrink nie. Die man is dors.” This becomes: “Die man het niks gedrink nie; daarom is die man dors.”

**Group 3:**

As mentioned, this is the group that is commonly left out – the other groups are the groups that are memorized, because those groups have ways with which you can memorize them. Group three doesn’t. The only trick to this group is that the words ending in “dat,” “wat” and all of the question words belong in this group. It’s also important to know that there is no punctuation with this group. Here are the words which belong in group 3:

Dat
Omdat
Totdat
Voordat
Nadat
Sodat
Wat
Wie
Alhoewel
Toe
Sodra
Sedert
Aangesien
As
Of
Mits
Tensy
Indien
This group is the most difficult group to remember, and that is the reason why it is advised to memorize the other groups’ words before memorizing this group’s words. There are a few “strange” things which you might come across. “Toe” is mentioned in both group 2 and 3 and is therefore seen as complex. The difference in the meaning is that in the 2nd group it refers to “then” whereas with group three, it refers to “when.” When reading the sentence, the way to identify this is to ask which “toe” should be used – this is important for the structure of the sentence as well as the punctuation mark. The second “strange” occurrence is the repetition of “of” in group one and three. In group 1, it means “or,” whereas in group 3 it refers to “if.” And similar to the “toe” scenario, the only way to identify this is to ask the question. It’s important for the sentence structure as well as punctuation. Here’s an example: “Hy is gelukkig. Hy het ’n meisie.” This changes to: “Hy is gelukkig omdat hy ’n meisie het.”

Some Hints:

- Verb one in the second sentence is the verb that moves.
- A helping verb, such as: kan and wil, will come before the second verb at the end.
  (Group 3)
- If the sentence is already started for you, and it begins with a group 3 conjunction, the verbs go to the middle of the sentence, and they are separated by a comma.