

Correlative (Double) Conjunctions → 20 seconds

Step 1

Case 1. Check the four answer choices → If you find such correlative conjunctions as both/ either/ neither/ and / or/ nor/ but/ whether.

Case 2. Check before the blank → If you find such coordinating conjunctions as and / or/ but, the question typically asks about "Parallel Structure".

Step 2

Case 1. Look for the little brother in the correlative pair.

E.g. both X and Y/ not X but Y/ either X or Y/ not only X but also Y (but Y as well)/
neither X nor Y/ whether X or Y

Case 2. The elements connected by these conjunctions are parallel: that is, similar in grammatical form. So look for parallel word(s). The form of parallel structure, in which unnecessary words are omitted but are understood, is termed 'ellipsis'.

E.g. Mary opened the door and Mary greeted her guests. → Mary opened the door and greeted her guests.