Recognizing Correlative Conjunctions

**Correlative conjunctions** connect the same kinds of words or groups of words but are used in pairs.

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| Correlative Conjunctions |
| both…and | neither…nor | whether…or |
| either…or | not only…but also |  |

Examples of correlative conjunctions and the words or groups of words they connect:

Nouns: We have seen both the *Hoover Dam* and the *Grand Canyon Dam*.

Pronouns: Either *you* or *I* will be the leader on the trail.

Verbs: The sick hiker would neither *eat* nor *drink*.

Prep phr: We hiked slowly, whether *in a large group* or *by ourselves.*

Sentences: *Not only are the Sierra Mountains rugged,* but *they are also beautiful.*

Exercise 2 – For each sentence, circle the correlative conjunction and underline the words or groups of words connected by the conjunction.

Example: The attack on Pearl Harbor was not only unexpected but also devastating.

1. Pearl Harbor is both majestic and awe inspiring.

2. Visitors can see either the Pearl Harbor monument or the memorial to the USS Arizona, a

ship that was partly sunk.

3. The Japanese air attack shocked the United States not only because it was a surprise attack,

but also because it was the first attack on American soil.

4. Before the attack, the United States had been uncertain about whether to join the war or

to let European countries fight by themselves.

5. Neither the Japanese nor the Germans believed the United States would recover from the

attack.