

# Questionnaire for connectives

LiSU team

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Language: Farsi

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## Contexts

### A. Conjunctive contexts

#### A1. No contrast

- 1) *Context (stative)*: Susie works as a doctor in a hospital. In her spare time, she gives classes at the local college.

*Target sentences:*

Susie is a doctor and she is a teacher.

Susie doktor ast                      **va** moalem ast  
Susie doctor be.pres.3sg    CONN teacher be.pres.3sg

Comment:

- “va” is pronounced as “o” in social contexts
- “ast” is usually pronounced as “e”

Susie is a doctor; she is a teacher. (check of whether juxtaposition is possible)

Comment: only with “ham” (=“also”); this would be two sentences

- 2) *Context (eventive)*: Paul needs to do some ironing, but he finds it boring, so he turns on the TV to watch his favourite program while he irons.

*Target sentences:*

Paul is watching TV and he is ironing his shirts.

Paul television mi-bin-Ø-ad **va**    pirhan-esh    ro    otu mi-kon-Ø-ad  
Paul TV impf-see-pres-3sg **CONN** shirt-her/his acc    iron    impf-do-pres-3sg

Paul is watching TV; he is ironing his shirts. (juxtaposition)

Comment: see above, “also” would have to be added after the acc marker

## A2. Contrast

- 3) *Context (stative)*: You live in a place where doctors are wealthy. Susie works as a doctor. She mainly treats patients who cannot pay for their treatment, so Susie earns much less money than other doctors do. You tell your friend about Susie:

*Target sentence*: Susie is a doctor but she is poor.

Susie doktor ast      **amma/vali**      faghir ast  
Susie doctor be.pres.3sg CONN      poor      be.pres.3sg

Comment:

- “amma” might be a loan from Arabic (same in Hausa?)
- no difference perceived between “amma” and “vali”

- 4) *Context (episodic)*: Jen bought a big ice cream cone. Instead of eating it herself though, she gave it to a sad-looking stranger who was sitting by himself on a bench.

*Target sentence*: Jen bought ice cream but she bought it for a stranger.

Jen bastani xar-id      **amma/vali**      be ye qharibe dad-esh  
Jen ice-cream buy-pfv.past.3sg but      to a stranger give.pfv.past.3sg-it

## A3. Contrast - negated conjunct

- 5) *Context*: Paul told his grandmother that he works in a hospital and now his grandma tells everyone that Paul is a doctor. But this is not true, Paul actually works at the reception!

*Target sentence*: Paul is not a doctor but he is a receptionist.

Paul doktor ni-st      **(balke)**      monshi ast  
Paul doctor neg-be.pres.3sg CONN      receptionist be.pres.3sg

Comment: the more natural way to say it would be without “balke”

- 6) *Context:* Jen was planning to buy herself some ice cream after work, but the store was all out of ice cream! So Jen decided to buy some chocolate instead.

*Target sentence:* Jen didn’t buy ice cream but she bought chocolate.

Jen bastani na-xar-id        (**balke/be-ja-sh**)        shokolat  
Jen ice-cream neg-buy-pfv.past.3sg but/to-place-it        chocolate

xar-id  
buy-pfv.past.3sg

Comments:

- with “balke” it sounds very formal
- “Be-ja” ~ “instead of”
- NP conjunction (“Jen didn’t buy ice-cream but chocolate”) wouldn’t be possible in Farsi

## B. Disjunctive contexts

### B1. With speaker knowledge about which clause is true

- 7) *Context:* On a multiple choice maths test, it asks “5x5” and lists two options (A) 24 and (B) 25. The teacher says to the student:

*Target sentence:* (Either) the answer to the question is A or the answer to the question is B.

Javab-e soal        **ya**        A        ast        **ya** B (ast).  
answer-EZ question **CONN** A        be.pres.3sg **CONN** B be.pres.3sg

Javab-e        soal        **ya** A ast        **va ya** B (ast).  
answer-EZ        question **or** A be.pres.3sg **and or** B be.pres.3sg

Comment:

- “EZ” stands for “ezafe” (a nominal linker)
- a longer version with full conjuncts would sound weird

- 8) *Context:* You and your friend are playing a game guessing the jobs of Paul and John. She can’t think of the answer, and she asks you for a hint. You know that

Paul is a doctor, and that John used to be a doctor but is not anymore. So you say:

*Target sentence:* (Either) Paul is a doctor or John is a doctor.

**Ya** Paul doktor ast                      **ya** John (doktor ast)  
**CONN** Paul doctor be.pres.3sg    **CONN** John doctor be.pres.3sg

Comment: “va” is not good here

## B2. Without speaker knowledge about which clause is true

### B2-1. Within a statement

#### B2-1.1 exclusive/unspecified

- 9) *Context:* You have lost your phone. You remember it at your work office desk before cycling home.

*Target sentence:* I left my phone at work or I dropped it on my way home.

Gushi-m ro        **ya**        sar-e                      kar ja gozasht-am                      **ya**        tu-ye rah  
Phone-my acc    CONN head-ez                      work place put.pfv.past-1sg CONN in-ez way

oftade ast  
drop.pst.ptcp be.pres.3sg

Comment: “ya” could also be sentence-initial here

- 10) *Context:* Your friend asks you what John’s job is. As far as you know, John might be a doctor. You’re not sure, though. It’s also possible that he’s a writer.

*Target sentence:* John is a doctor or he is a writer.

John **ya**        doktor ast                      **ya**        nevisande ast  
John **CONN** doctor be.pres.3sg    **CONN** writer be.pres.3sg

Comment: wouldn’t put “ya” at the beginning here... sentence-initial “ya” sounds exclusive

#### B2-1.2 inclusive

- 11) Context: Your friend asks you what John's job is. You're not sure: he might be a doctor, he might be a writer, he might also be both. You say:

*Target sentence:* John is a doctor or he is a writer (maybe both).

John **ya** doktor ast                      **ya** nevisande ast  
John **CONN** doctor be.pres.3sg   **CONN** writer be.pres.3sg

(shayad ham har do)  
(maybe also each two)

## B2-2. Within a question

- 12) Context: You come home from work and realise that you have lost your phone. You tell your friend, whom you called from your office right before you left work. Your friend asks you:

*Target sentence:* Did you leave your phone at work or did you leave it on the bus?

Gushi-t              ro              sar-e   kar ja gozasht-i                      **ya**  
Mobile-your   acc      head-ez work place put.pfv.past-2sg      **CONN**

tu-ye otubus ja gozasht-i?  
in-ez bus   place put.pfv.past-2sg

Comment: only one "ya" here

- 13) Context: You really want a particular brand of sauce for something you plan on cooking later, but you're not sure which supermarket would sell it. You ask your housemate:

*Target sentence:* Would Shop A sell this brand or would Shop B sell this brand?

Forushgah-e A in berand ro              dar-Ø-ad      **ya**      forushgah-e B?  
Shop-ez      A this brand acc      have-pres-3sg **CONN** Shop-ez B

## C. Others

### C1. Both clauses are false

- 14) *Context (stative)*: Paul works in a hospital. He is not a doctor and he is not a nurse. He works at the reception.

*Target sentence*: Paul is neither a doctor nor is he a nurse.

Paul **na** doktor ast                      **na** parastar ast  
Paul **CONN** doctor be.pres.3sg   **CONN** nurse be.pres.3sg

- 15) *Context (episodic)*: Mike's mother told him to go to the supermarket to buy some ice cream for his sister, but Mike stole it instead and ate it himself.

*Target sentence*: Mike didn't buy ice cream nor did he give it to his sister.

Mike **na** pul-e              bastani              ro              dad                      **na**  
Mike **CONN** money-ez              ice-cream              acc              give.pfv.past.3sg              **CONN**

bastani              ro              be              xahar-esh              dad  
ice-cream              acc              to              sister-her/his give.pfv.past.3sg

### C2. Free choice

- 16) *Context*: There are two sweets on the table. A cupcake and a cookie. Paul can choose either one of them but not both. You don't care which one he chooses.

*Target sentence*: Paul can eat a cupcake or he can eat a cookie.

Paul **ya** mi-tavan-Ø-ad              kapkeik              ro              bo-xor-ad  
Paul **CONN** impf-can-pres-3sg              cupcake              acc              impf.sbjv-eat-3sg

**ya**                      mi-tavan-ad                      koluche ro              bo-xor-ad  
**CONN**                      impf-can-pres-3sg              cookie acc              impf.sbjv-eat-3sg

Comment:

- two different imperfective markers in Farsi ("bo" for sbjv)
- "ya" not so good sentence-initially here because the subject should be in the (sentence-initial) topic position

### C3. Disjunction under negation

– can be skipped if 14)/15) elicit explicit/separate negation (rather than a dedicated connective)

17) *Context*: Susie always wanted to be a doctor, and she always loved running.  
When she was a kid, she dreamt of a double-career as a doctor and a professional runner. Unfortunately for Susie, neither of these plans worked out. She works a job she doesn't like and she has no time for running.

*Target sentence*: Susie isn't a doctor or a runner.  
(= It's not the case that Susie is a doctor or that Susie is a runner.)

Susie doktor **ya**      davande      ni-st  
Susie doctor **CONN** runner      neg-be.pres.3sg

Comment:

- the above sentence is grammatical but not great in this context
- it means that she is neither a doctor or a runner
- could be good in a context where you guess what her job is, but you know what she is not [AM: not quite sure what the underlying generalisation would be here]
- “na” ... “na” - sentence strongly preferred for this context though

Alternative elicited for disjunction outscoping negation:

Susie **ya**      doktor ni-st      **ya** davande (ni-st)  
Susie **CONN** doctor neg-be.pres.3sg      **CONN** runner neg-be.pres.3sg  
“S. is either not a doctor or not a runner.”