Dear Educators,

On the third Monday of February, Americans celebrate President’s Day.¹ This holiday honors the dedication and service of our first president, George Washington, and all the other presidents who have led our country throughout its history.

On this President’s Day, we recall a statement by President Theodore Roosevelt: “Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” We salute you for the hard work that you are doing. You are helping to create a better and stronger United States by teaching future presidents. Thank you.

The Grammar Gallery Team

▲ The faces of four American presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln, are carved into the rock at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

¹ “President’s Day” is not the official name of this holiday. In fact, it doesn’t have an official name. As a result, you’ll see variations in the way it is spelled: “President’s Day,” “Presidents Day,” and “Presidents’ Day.” The variation “President’s Day,” which is used in this resource, reflects the holiday’s roots as “Washington’s Birthday.” United States government publications often use “Presidents Day,” using “Presidents” as an attributive noun. Other publications and guides may use “Presidents’ Day,” using “Presidents’” as a possessive noun. Take your pick!

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www.grammargallery.org
Conjunctions
A conjunction is a word that connects words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. The words *and*, *or*, *but*, *yet*, *because*, and *so* are examples of conjunctions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>George Washington (February 22, 1732–December 14, 1799)</th>
<th>1st president of the United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

George Washington was a surveyor. George Washington was a soldier.  
**George Washington was a surveyor and a soldier.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809–April 15, 1865)</th>
<th>16th president of the United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Abraham Lincoln did not have much money. He did not come from a famous family.  
**Abraham Lincoln did not have much money or come from a famous family.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theodore Roosevelt (October 27, 1858–January 6, 1919)</th>
<th>26th president of the United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Theodore Roosevelt was elected vice president. He became president when President McKinley was assassinated.  
**Theodore Roosevelt was elected vice president, but he became president when President McKinley was assassinated.**
Harry S Truman (May 8, 1884–December 26, 1972)
33rd president of the United States

Harry Truman’s term as president ended in 1953. He remained active in politics.

Harry Truman’s term as president ended in 1953, yet he remained active in politics.

Ronald Reagan (February 6, 1911–June 5, 2004)
40th president of the United States

Ronald Reagan was called the “great communicator.” He was able to express his ideas clearly.

Ronald Reagan was called the “great communicator” because he was able to express his ideas clearly.

Barack Obama (August 4, 1961- )
44th president of the United States

Barack Obama received 365 electoral votes. He won the 2008 presidential election.

Barack Obama received 365 electoral votes, so he won the 2008 presidential election.
DIRECTIONS: Complete each sentence with a conjunction.

Example:

George Washington was a strong leader during America’s War for Independence, **so** he was chosen to be the first president of the United States.
Abraham Lincoln came from a poor family, ______________ he became president of the United States.
Theodore Roosevelt came from a rich _______________ important family.
President Harry Truman (center) met with Winston Churchill (right) and other world leaders.
As a young man, Ronald Reagan was a movie actor, _____________ later he was elected president of the United States.
Barack Obama was elected president __________________ voters believed in his message of hope.
DIRECTIONS: Write a sentence to go with each picture. Make sure you include at least one conjunction in each sentence.

Example:
The faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln are carved into the rock at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.
Photo Credits

Mt. Rushmore, Papa Lima Whiskey: http://www.flickr.com/photos/82297923@N00/52622356/ 06.04.03 Mount Rushmore Monument].


Harry S Truman and world leaders. Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-29645-0001 / CC-BY-SA.