

What is a conjunction?

A conjunction is a part of speech that enables us to gracefully connect two words, sentences, phrases or clauses together. We can also think of it as connectors.

Example:

1. She went to work, **but** she did not want to go.

Types of conjunctions:

There are three types of conjunctions.

1. Coordinating conjunctions
2. Subordinating Conjunctions
3. Correlative conjunctions

What are coordinating conjunctions?

Coordinative conjunction is used to connect parts of a sentence that are grammatically equal, showing that the elements it joins are similar in importance and structure. These are short, simple conjunctions. The seven coordinating conjunctions are:

for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

What are 7 Coordinating Conjunctions:

The best way to remember the seven coordinating conjunctions is by using the acronym FANBOYS.

1. F -> for
2. A -> and
3. N -> nor
4. B -> but
5. O -> or
6. Y -> yet
7. S -> so

What are the examples of coordinating conjunctions:

Coordinating conjunctions connects words, phrases and clauses of the same kind:

- two NOUNS
cats *and* cows
- two VERBS
shouts *or* kicks
- two ADJECTIVES
short *and* simple
- two ADVERBS
quickly *but* carefully
- two INDEPENDENT CLAUSES
Dylan writes better songs, *but* Britney Spears sells more records.

Meaning of different co-ordinating conjunctions with sentences:

☞ For

shows reason or purpose (sometimes **because** can be used instead)

- *I go to the library, for I love to read.*

☞ And

connects two or more ideas

- *I like to eat cookies, and I like to drink milk.*

☞ Nor

shows a non-contrasting, negative idea. Adds more negativity.

- *I refuse to hug to people I don't know, nor will I kiss them.*

☞ But

shows contrast or exception.

- *Sheila likes soup, but sometimes she orders something different.*

Or

shows choice or option.

- *He could go to the bar, or he could go to work.*

Yet

also shows contrast or exception.

- *He had been crying all day, yet the man made him laugh.*

So

shows consequence.

- *The lady was feeling ill, so she went home to bed.*

- **Coma usage with coordinating conjunctions:** The comma is inserted before the coordinating conjunction between two clauses. The comma tells the reader that one clause has finished and other clause had started.

Example: She went to the supermarket, and she bought some apples.



Rule 1: Put a comma before the FANBOYS when they connect two independent clauses.

Rule 2: If the first sentence has 5 or fewer words you may choose to omit the comma.

REMEMBER THESE RULES!



Please note: Comma is not used when we connect two words or phrases.

Example: She ate cake and chocolate.

If you are unsure about whether you should use a comma follow these steps:

Step 1: Find the FANBOYS, i.e., coordinating conjunctions.

Example: *I followed the assembly directions but the bookshelf didn't look right.*

Step 2: Read the words before the FANBOYS. Ask yourself whether it is a sentence or not.

Yes, *I followed the assembly directions* is a sentence.

Step 3: Read the words after the FANBOYS. Ask yourself whether it is a sentence or not.

Yes, *the bookshelf didn't look right* is a sentence.

Step 4: If you answered *yes* to questions 2 and 3, add a comma before the FANBOYS. If you answered *no* to either question 2 or 3, do not add a comma before the FANBOYS.

Activity 1:

Choose the correct option to complete to join the sentences. Write down the question number and the symbol.

1. Thomas will be late to work, ____ he has a dental appointment.

- A. but
- B. or
- C. for
- D. nor

2. Jennifer does not like to swim, ____ does she enjoy cycling.

- A. and
- B. or
- C. but
- D. nor

3. Jackson wanted to eat another piece of cake, ____ he was on a diet.

- A. for
- B. but
- C. yet
- D. so

Activity 2:

Combine the sentences by using one of the coordinating conjunctions. Write down the combined sentence in your book and underline the conjunction.

4. She went to work. She did not want to go.
5. They couldn't think of anything better to do. They decided to babysit for the family.
6. He can buy the book. He can borrow it from the library.
7. Mark told me not to come with him. He looked longingly at me as I left.

Activity 3: This one is a bit challenging!

Are the correct coordinating conjunctions being used in each of the following sentences? Explain your reasoning why or why not: (Focus on the functions and give the corrected sentence if needed.)

8. I love boxing or sewing. They're both a lot of fun.
9. Martin is pretty good at writing, for Jaden is better.
10. Juana had to choose. Would she join the red team and the blue team?