

Coordinating Conjunctions

A conjunction is the glue that holds words, phrases and clauses (both dependent and independent) together. A coordinating conjunction is a conjunction that connects words, phrases, and clauses that are coordinate, or equal to each other. There are seven coordinating conjunctions: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. They can be remembered using the acronym FANBOYS. Below is a chart explaining the differences between the usages of these conjunctions.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTION (FANBOYS)	PURPOSE	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
For	To show reason	<i>She bought a mango, for she was hungry.</i>
And	To add information	<i>Desiree lives in Alaska, and she is a park ranger at the National Forest there.</i>
Nor	To add negative information	<i>He does not enjoy eating vegetables, nor does he enjoy eating fruit.</i>
But	To show contrast	<i>The class was difficult, but everyone ended up receiving a passing grade.</i>
Or	To give a choice	<i>We can see a horror movie, or we can see an action movie.</i>
Yet	To show concession or to contrast	<i>The test was difficult, yet everyone received higher than a “C” grade.</i>
So	To show result	<i>I was broke all week, so I had to eat Top Ramen for every meal.</i>

1) FANBOYS can be used to join two or more words/phrases.

- Example: We hike **and** camp every summer. [*And* joins two words.]
- Example: We hike along scenic trails **or** in the wilderness [*or* joins two phrases]

Note: Never use a comma when a coordinating conjunction links only two words, two phrases, or two dependent clauses.

- Example: Habitat for humanity depends on volunteers for **labor and donations** to help with its construction projects. [Comma is not needed because *labor and donations* are two words]
- Example: Each language has **a beauty of its own and forms of expression** that are duplicated nowhere else. [*A beauty of its own* and *forms of expression* are phrases, so a comma is not needed.]

2) FANBOYS are also used to join two independent clauses. When combining two ICs, you place a comma *before* the coordinating conjunction.

- Example: The girl ran from her car to the building, for she was late to her appointment.
- Example: The bear snarled and growled, yet the hiker remained calm and composed.

Note: Never put a comma after a coordinating conjunction that joins two independent clauses