

45. COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS (*and, but, or...*)

Coordinating conjunctions connect two sentences.

- There are seven coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, or, so, yet, for, nor*.
- To remember the coordinating conjunctions, use the acronym **FANBOYS** (For And Nor But Or Yet So).

Each coordinating conjunction expresses a specific meaning:

EXAMPLES	MEANING
<i>Diabetes is a serious disease, <u>and</u> it is becoming more common.</i> (The second part of the sentence gives more information about diabetes)	AND adds information.
<i>Smoking has been linked to health problems, <u>but</u> many people continue to smoke.</i> (Many people smoking contrasts with the fact that smoking causes health problems.)	BUT contradicts, offers a contrast, or introduces something unexpected.
<i>Boris works ten hours a day, <u>yet</u> he has time to volunteer at a homeless shelter.</i> (It is very surprising that Boris has time left for volunteering.)	YET expresses a stronger contrast than <i>but</i> .
<i>The professor may give the students a take-home exam, <u>or</u> he will have them write research papers.</i> (The professor has a choice: requiring an exam or a paper, but not both.)	OR offers a choice.
<i>The car that the police seized at the crime scene had been sold in auction, <u>for</u> no one came forward to claim it.</i> (The reason the car was sold was because no one claimed it.)	FOR means <i>because</i> . It introduces the cause of a cause-effect relationship
<i>The president did not come because of illness, <u>so</u> someone else gave the achievement awards on her behalf.</i> (Someone else giving the awards is the result of the president's illness.)	SO means <i>as a result</i> . It introduces the effect of a cause-effect relationship.
<i>The discussion was not exciting, <u>nor</u> was it informative.</i> (This sentence tells us two things that the discussion was not.)	NOR removes alternatives. It tells what something is not, rather than what it is.

When using coordinating conjunctions, remember:

- Avoid overusing the conjunction **AND**. Make sure you chose the conjunction that communicates what you want to express (e.g., use **SO** to express a result):

Instead of always using AND	Use a more specific conjunction
<i>The orange farmers wanted to get a better yield, <u>and</u> they used fertilizer.</i>	<i>The orange farmers wanted to get a better yield, <u>so</u> they used fertilize.</i>

- Do not start a sentence with a coordinating conjunction. Instead use a related transition word:

Instead of starting a sentence with:	Use
<i>AND</i>	<i>Also; In addition</i>
<i>BUT</i>	<i>However</i>
<i>OR</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
<i>SO</i>	<i>As a result; Consequently</i>

- Use a comma before the coordinating conjunction.