

FANBOYS

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Use **coordinating conjunctions** to join two independent clauses.

The mnemonic **FANBOYS** lists the seven coordinating conjunctions.

F

FOR

Indicates **causation**:

We developed our thesis outline early, for we needed to plan ahead.

A

AND

Joins **two or more items** without specifying their relationship:

I am contacting our stakeholders, and Chris is writing the initial report.

N

NOR

Adds to **previously stated negation**:

The first test did not yield significant results, nor did it contribute to the study.



B

BUT

Signals a **contradiction** or **caveat**:
Chris and I faced an initial setback, but we determined an alternative method.

O

OR

Indicates **alternatives**:
I could conduct surveys, or I could gather the qualitative data.

Y

YET

Like "but," means **nevertheless** or **in spite of** something:
This was a challenging new approach, yet we persevered.

S

SO

If "for" indicates the cause, "so" introduces the **effect**:
Our methods took a different direction, so we met with our advisory team.

For more on FANBOYS, click below or see a writing coach!

- [Coordinating Conjunctions \(FANBOYS\)](#)
- [Commas, FANBOYS](#)
- [Phrases and Clauses](#)
- [Meet with a Writing Coach](#)

