FANBOYS

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Use coordinating conjunctions to join two independent clauses.

The mnemonic FANBOYS lists the seven coordinating conjunctions.

FOR
Indicates causation:

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

AND
Joins two or more items without specifying their relationship:

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

NOR
Adds to previously stated negation:

The first test did not yield significant results, nor did it contribute to the study.
**BUT**
Signals a *contradiction* or *caveat*:
Chris and I faced an initial setback, **but** we determined an alternative method.

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

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

**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