

How To: Joining Sentences with Coordinators

When your sentences are clearly focused, you'll find it much easier to join sentences that are logically related. In this unit, you will practice using the seven coordinators. The easiest way to remember them is to remember the word FANBOYS, which is an acronym, a word made up of the first letters of the names of the seven coordinators. In the example sentences below, notice the logical relationships that the coordinators express:

Coordinators	Logical Relationships
FOR: Mary enjoys math, for it is challenging.	result/cause
AND: Judy has won several trophies, and she is an honor student.	addition
NOR: Judy doesn't work, nor does she want a job.	addition of negatives
BUT: Nabil is pretty good at gymnastics, but he prefers swimming.	contrast
OR: Jaime needs a vacation, or he'll go crazy.	alternative
YET: Irma doesn't earn much, yet she spends money like a millionaire.	contrast
SO: The coach praised the team excessively, so the players stopped believing him.	cause/result

PUNCTUATION: When coordinators join sentences, commas come before the coordinators, following this pattern: complete sentence + **comma** + coordinator + complete sentence.
(*C*, + *COORD* + *C*)

The coordinators are important because:

1. We can use them to join sentences, which helps **eliminate choppiness** in our writing.
2. Unlike other joining words, they can also **show logical relationships** between two separate sentences; to emphasize this relationship, we can begin sentences with coordinators. To create flow, we can use coordinators with commas between two complete ideas.

Siu Fong and Taylor liked each other and wanted to date. But there was a catch. They lived 3,000 miles apart, and neither of them had money to travel.
