

# Coordinating conjunctions

## Definition:

Coordinating conjunctions are words that connect words, phrases, or clauses of equal grammatical rank in a sentence. They are used to join two or more words or groups of words that are similar in function or importance, and they indicate the relationship between the connected elements.

## Examples of coordinating conjunctions:

1. **For:** Used to indicate a reason or cause. Example: "**I went to the store, for I needed some groceries.**"
2. **And:** Used to indicate addition or similarity. Example: "**She likes to read and write.**"
3. **But:** Used to indicate contrast or opposition. Example: "**He wanted to go to the party, but he was too tired.**"
4. **Or:** Used to indicate a choice or alternative. Example: "**Would you like tea or coffee?**"
5. **Nor:** Used to indicate a negative alternative. Example: "**He neither called nor texted me.**"
6. **Yet:** Used to indicate contrast or concession. Example: "**She is tired, yet she keeps working.**"



## Functions of coordinating conjunctions:

1. **Connecting words:** Coordinating conjunctions connect two or more words of the same grammatical rank, such as two nouns, two verbs, or two adjectives. Example: "**She is tall and smart.**"
2. **Connecting phrases:** Coordinating conjunctions connect two or more phrases of the same grammatical rank, such as two prepositional phrases or two infinitive phrases. Example: "**He walked to the park and through the woods.**"

3. **Connecting clauses:** Coordinating conjunctions connect two or more independent clauses, allowing them to be joined into a compound sentence. Example: "**I studied for the test, but I didn't do well.**"
4. **Expressing relationships:** Coordinating conjunctions indicate the relationship between the connected elements, such as addition, contrast, choice, or concession.

### Tips for using coordinating conjunctions:

1. **Use coordinating conjunctions to connect elements of equal grammatical rank:**  
Coordinating conjunctions are used to connect words, phrases, or clauses that have the same grammatical function or importance.
2. **Remember the acronym FANBOYS:** FANBOYS is a helpful acronym to remember the most common coordinating conjunctions: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So.
3. **Use appropriate coordinating conjunctions based on the intended relationship:**  
Choose the coordinating conjunction that best expresses the intended relationship between the connected elements.
4. **Punctuate correctly:** When coordinating conjunctions connect two independent clauses, use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Example: "**I wanted to go to the movies, but I didn't have enough money.**"
5. **Keep sentences balanced:** When using coordinating conjunctions to join elements in a sentence, aim for balance and clarity, making sure the connected elements are similar in grammatical structure and meaning.