

Unit Three

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

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

The coordinators are important because:

1. We can use them to join sentences, which helps eliminate chopiness in our writing.
2. Unlike other joining words, they can also show logical relationships between two separate sentences; we can begin sentences with coordinators.

Siu Fong practiced gymnastics every day. So she eventually excelled at it.

3. Most importantly, the coordinators help to express logical relationships between sentences.

Exercise One Old House

Join the following sets of sentences, using coordinators. The logical relationships are given in brackets.

EXAMPLE: Most people want to own their own home.
They can't afford one.

[contrast]

SOLUTION: Most people want to own their own home, but they can't afford one.

1. Sid and Sal found an old, inexpensive house they could afford.
They bought it. [cause/effect]
2. They wanted a newer house.
New houses were too costly. [contrast]
3. Sid and Sal applied for a loan to fix up the dilapidated building.
The lender approved it. [addition]
4. They replaced the old toilet in the upstairs bathroom.
The bathtub fell through the rotted floor into the kitchen below. [contrast]
5. They were not pleased to find a hornet's nest in the attic.
They were not happy to find termites in the foundation. [addition of negatives]

6. The house was in danger of collapsing any day.
The termites had devoured most of the foundation. *[effect/cause]*
7. Sid and Sal decided they should jack up the house
to replace the foundation.
Their house would be a "goner." *[alternative]*
8. The construction workers had to work on the foundation.
They lifted the house gently with hydraulic jacks. *[cause/effect]*
9. The crew completed the foundation.
The roof caved in. *[contrast]*
10. Sid and Sal now enjoy living in the backyard.
It's a lot safer than living in their house. *[effect/cause]*