

Compound Sentences

FANBOYS: Joining Sentences with Coordinators

Coordinators help you join sentences that are logically related. The easiest way to remember the seven coordinators is to remember the word FANBOYS. FANBOYS is an acronym: a word made up of the first letters of the names of the seven coordinators: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

Coordinators	Compound Sentence	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 excels at soccer, 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

Coordinators are important because we use them to join sentences, and this helps eliminate choppiness in our writing.

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

Notice how the coordinators help to express logical relationships between sentences above.

PUNCTUATION: Put a comma before the FANBOYS when use them to join sentences.