

FANBOYS

Coordinating Conjunctions



What are coordinating conjunctions?

Coordinating conjunctions are the words we use to link ideas together to make a compound sentence. They always connect phrases, words and clauses.

In the compound sentence below, two ideas have been combined into one sentence with the coordinating conjunction 'so'.

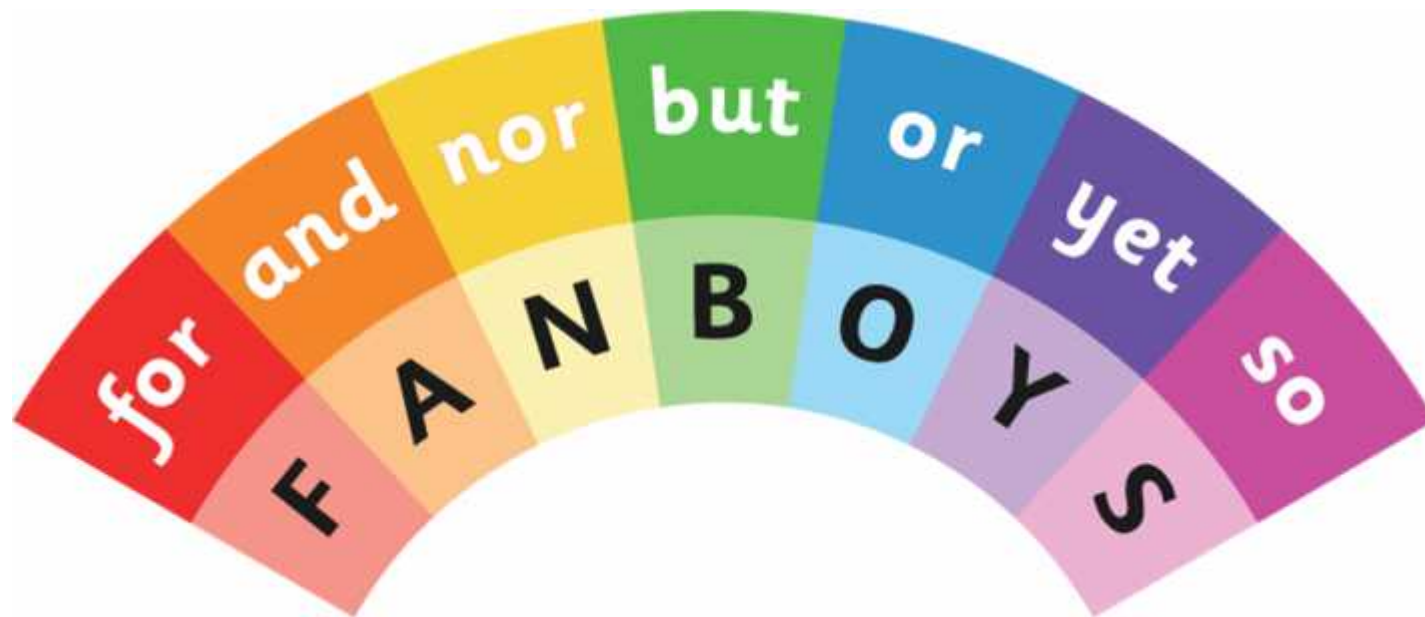
I am going on a bike ride, **so** I will need to wear my new helmet.



What is FANBOYS?

FANBOYS is an acronym used to help us remember the seven coordinating conjunctions used in the English language.

It stands for:



For

The word 'for' is used to explain a reason or purpose. It can be used in a similar way to 'because'.



e.g. I think we will need to stay inside during lunch time today, **for** it is raining heavily outside.

And

The word 'and' is used to show and link additional ideas into one sentence.

e.g. We are going on a holiday to visit my grandparents **and** to go snorkelling on the reef!



Nor

We can use 'nor' to offer an alternative negative idea to another negative idea.

e.g. I would rather not have to play basketball, **nor** do I want to play football.



But

The conjunction 'but' is used to show contrast or to compare ideas.

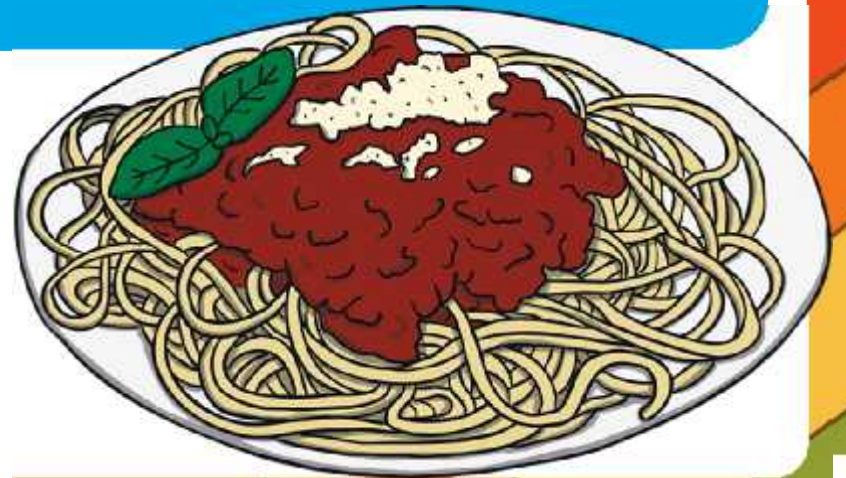
e.g. The ferris wheel was pretty fun, **but** the roller coaster was my favourite!



Or

We use the word 'or' to present a choice or alternative idea.

e.g. You can finish the leftover pasta for lunch, or you can make a toasted sandwich..



Yet

The word 'yet' is used to link a different or contrasting idea to the first idea in the sentence. It can be used in a similar way to 'but'.

e.g. I always buy the large pack of bobby pins, **yet** I can never find one when I need it!



So

We use 'so' in compound sentences to help highlight a consequence or result.

e.g. I am allergic to peanuts, **so** I need to be very careful when I eat out.



