

## Using Commas With Coordinating Conjunctions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Coordinating conjunctions** join two independent clauses to make a compound sentence. Use a comma between the first independent clause and the coordinating conjunction. **Example:** *My brother like the mountains, but I like the beach.*

To help you remember the coordinating conjunctions, think of the words "FAN BOYS".



**For And Nor But Or Yet So**



**Combine the sentences using a comma and a coordinating conjunction.**

1. I don't want to argue with you. I don't want to give in.

2. She had a lot of friends. She was a friendly girl.

3. I had a cute puppy. I lost him.

4. He studied for the test. He got a good grade.

5. Jim can boil eggs. Sally can make toast.

6. We can go to Disneyland. We can go to Sea World.

7. Dan moved to Michigan. He moved home again.

8. They didn't want to be late. They hurried.

9. Jill runs a mile every day. She swims on Fridays.

10. You can choose vanilla ice cream. You can choose chocolate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Comma Practice Worksheet 3

Rule: Commas are used with coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) to combine two Independent Clauses together: IC, and IC.

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Add commas where necessary in the following sentences based on the rule above.
- If the sentence is correct, circle the number.
- Highlight both Independent Clauses for each compound sentence.

Example: I like coffee, and Robert likes iced tea.

1. I am a wife and I am a mother.
2. I am fervently against discrimination of any kind to any group but I believe we're going just a bit overboard when the Bible is called sexist and rewritten.
3. All major religions have as their Almighty a paternal figure and I suggest that this state of affairs in no way diminishes the status of women.
4. The test doesn't seem too difficult but it may get harder.
5. I want a wife who will have arranged that the children are fed and ready for bed before my guests arrive so that the children do not bother us.
6. Glen refused to visit his sister because she was rude to him.
7. Teens watch movies at the theater or they rent movies and watch them at home.
8. We now have Tropical Storm Tommy and Hurricane Hilda and meteorologists can no longer be accused of casting aspersions on the feminine temperament.
9. I would like to go back to school so that I can become economically independent support myself and support those dependent upon me.
10. It may mean a cut in my wife's income from time to time but I guess I can tolerate that.

## FANBOYS Conjunction Practice!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct FANBOYS conjunctions.

Word Bank: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
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1. I was rushing to my appointment, \_\_\_\_\_ I still didn't make it on time.
2. I am going to pull my grades up in Math class, \_\_\_\_\_ next semester I will be on the honor roll.
2. I love going skiing, \_\_\_\_\_ I especially love skiing with my "boo."
3. I could eat the pizza right now, \_\_\_\_\_ I could save it for later.
4. Samantha doesn't like Marcus, \_\_\_\_\_ does she like Tyler.
5. I am hoping that Kyle will call me back, \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know if I am ready for a relationship.
6. I never drive to school, \_\_\_\_\_ I sometimes drive my mom to work.
7. Tianna did not want to go to prom alone, \_\_\_\_\_ did she want to go with Donald.
8. Damien got his picture taken with his girlfriend, \_\_\_\_\_ he didn't smile.
9. I got an A on my history test, \_\_\_\_\_ I even aced my ROTC inspection!
10. I could spend the night at my best friend's tonight, \_\_\_\_\_ I could go to the movies with my family.

## Coordinating Conjunctions Worksheet

Fill in the coordinating conjunction (*and, but, for, nor, so, or yet*) that most logically links the two parts of each of the following compound sentences. Remember to insert a comma before each coordinating conjunction.

*Example: Many people travel abroad to adopt children, for adopting internationally is often easier than adopting an American or European child.*

1. Many people today desperately want children \_\_\_\_\_ they are unable to conceive a child.
2. For many of these people, adoption is the answer \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of them will choose international adoption.
3. Children adopted by Americans frequently come from orphanages in poor countries \_\_\_\_\_ starting a new life in the United States is not always easy for these children.
4. Loving parents and a stable home may seem like luxuries \_\_\_\_\_ the child is also leaving a familiar world behind.
5. Before the 1980s, adoption experts told adoptive parents to ignore their children's background \_\_\_\_\_ most children adopted internationally had no sense of their culture.
6. For example, either the Korean War orphans arriving in the United States in the 1950s were too young to remember Korea \_\_\_\_\_ they were urged to abandon any memories they had.
7. These Korean children were given American names \_\_\_\_\_ they often ended up living in towns where there were no other Asian children.
8. Today, adoptive parents usually try to find out all they can about their children's native country and language \_\_\_\_\_ teaching adopted children about their native culture is considered essential.
9. Adoptive parents often form support groups for adopted children from a particular country \_\_\_\_\_ in these groups, their children can meet others who have similar backgrounds.
10. Today's adoptive parents no longer ignore their children cultural backgrounds \_\_\_\_\_ do they try to make their children conform to an "American" standard.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction that *joins* two independent clauses.**

(and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet)

Our flight arrived on time, **but** my brother was not there to pick us up.

Betty likes to eat pizza, **but** she likes spaghetti better.

**DO NOT use a comma before a conjunction that *does not join* two independent clauses.**

Our flight arrived on time **but** at the wrong gate.

Betty likes to eat pizza **and** spaghetti.

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**Rewrite each sentence using the correct punctuation.**

1. We went fishing last Saturday but we didn't catch anything.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Mom sat down to pay the bills but she realized that she was out of checks.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Vasco jumped over the fence to chase a rabbit and then he saw the bull.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Breaking in new shoes is sometimes painful but it's worth it in the end.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. John will have to go to summer school or he won't be able to start high school next year.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Candice love working with the student government and planned to join it again next year.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Sometimes I like to sing along with the radio and dance with the music.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Mrs. Bryant brought cookies to the party and she helped us clean up when it was over.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Mary went to the amusement park and she rode a huge roller coaster.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Sandra went shopping and skipping yesterday afternoon.

\_\_\_\_\_

# Conjunctions • • • • • Rules to Remember

**Rule:** Coordinating conjunctions are connecting words. They join words, phrases, or clauses. Two of the most commonly used coordinating conjunctions are *and* and *or*.

Salesman knocks on door and says to little girl in the yard: "Is your mother home?"

Little girl: "Yes."

When nobody comes to the door, the salesman says: "I thought you said she was home!"

Little girl: "She is. I don't live here."

- *Explanation:* "and" means "in addition to" or "at the same time."

Girl: "Which do you think is more important: the sun or the moon?"

Boy: "Obviously, the moon."

Girl: "Why do you think so?"

Boy: "The moon gives us light at night, which is when we need it. The sun only gives us light during the day, which is when we don't need it."

- *Explanation:* "or" implies a choice.

**The coordinating conjunctions *but* and *yet* indicate contrast.**

What has 88 teeth but never brushes them?

... a piano

When can a pocket be empty and yet have something in it?

... when it's got a hole in it

**Rule:** Subordinating conjunctions, such as *so*, *unless*, and *because* indicate cause and effect.

Why was the mummy sent into the game to pinch-hit?

... so he could wrap up the game

How are riddles just like pencils?

... They're no good unless they have a point.

Why did the boy keep on his shirt when he took a bath?

... because the label said wash and wear



# Conjunctions • • • • • • • • Practice Page

**Directions:** Complete each joke by writing one of the conjunctions from the box. Each conjunction is used more than once.

and	because	but	or	so
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- Teacher: "Where is the English Channel?"  
Student: "I don't know. We don't have cable, \_\_\_\_\_ we only get the local stations."
- How do you know that the moon prefers clear nights?  
... \_\_\_\_\_ when the clouds disappear, the moon beams
- What coat has no zipper \_\_\_\_\_ buttons \_\_\_\_\_ must be put on wet?  
... a coat of paint
- Which are the most mathematical bugs?  
... Mosquitoes. They subtract from pleasure, add to misery, divide your attention, \_\_\_\_\_ multiply rapidly.
- Mother: "Why are animal crackers spread all over the table?"  
Child: "I'm searching them."  
Mother: "For what?"  
Child: "The box says you shouldn't eat them if the seal is broken."  
... \_\_\_\_\_, I'm looking for the seal."
- Girl: "How was the play you went to last night?"  
Boy: "It was good, \_\_\_\_\_ I only saw the first act."  
Girl: "Why?"  
Boy: "The program said, "Act 2. . . Three Months Later."  
... \_\_\_\_\_ I went home."
- Why couldn't the mummy answer the telephone?  
... \_\_\_\_\_ he was tied up
- Hopeful boyfriend: "Sir, I'd like to ask for your daughter's hand in marriage."  
Father: "Sorry, you've got to take all of her \_\_\_\_\_ nothing."
- What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, \_\_\_\_\_ never in a hundred thousand years?  
... the letter M
- How was the blind carpenter's sight restored?  
... He picked up his hammer \_\_\_\_\_ saw.