

Help Centres – English Support



Coordinating Conjunctions Practice

When two simple sentences are joined with a coordinating conjunction, they become independent clauses in a compound sentence.

John played the piano. Jeff sang.

(simple sentence + simple sentence)

John played the piano, and Jeff sang.

(independent clause + coordinating conjunction + independent clause)

The coordinating conjunctions are: **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so**. The acronym **FANBOYS** might help you remember this group of seven conjunctions. Use a comma in front of these conjunctions when they join two clauses.

and (addition)	The manager offered John the job, and John accepted.
but (contrast)	The job is stressful, but John enjoys it.
so (result)	He works hard, so his employer is pleased.
or (alternative)	He can walk to work, or he can take the bus.
nor (negative alternative)	He never arrives late, nor does he ever leave early.
for (reason)	He is glad to have the job, for he needs the money.
yet (contrast)	He must often work overtime, yet he never complains.

A. Complete each sentence with **and / but / or / so**:

1. The power went off, _____ I couldn't do the laundry.
2. They wanted to go to the beach, _____ it was raining.
3. He needed a shave, _____ his clothes were grubby.
4. He ran as fast as he could, _____ he missed the bus.
5. Would you like tea, _____ would you prefer coffee?
6. The roads were very slippery, _____ there were several accidents.
7. They went to the bank, _____ they arranged for a mortgage.
8. They got married, _____ they lived happily ever after.

9. My car wouldn't start, _____ I was late for work.
10. He failed his driving test, _____ he was very disappointed.
11. Jim asked for a raise, _____ his boss refused.
12. Shall I call you, _____ will you call me?

B. Choose an independent clause from column 1 and join it to an independent clause from column 2 with a coordinating conjunction. Write the sentences below using correct punctuation.

1	2
John washed the dishes	I went to bed early
I tried my best	you might get cold
Wear a sweater	you can deposit it in your account
The new TV didn't work	I gave her a ride
I was very tired last night	I don't want to go
You can cash the cheque	I couldn't find my keys
I've been invited to the party	his wife did the laundry
You bring the food	they took it back
My friend's car was being fixed	I'll bring something to drink
I looked everywhere	I couldn't do it

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

10. _____