

COORDINATORS

English Language Learner

WRITING - CONNECTIONS



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CONNECTIONS

Coordinators

Subordinators

Correlative Conjunctions

Conjunctive Adverbs

Transition Signals

COORDINATORS

- Also known as *coordinating conjunctions*
- *for*
- *and*
- *nor*
- *but*
- *or*
- *yet*

When to use coordinators

- To present relationships
- To connect independent clause that are equivalent, related, or balanced



FOR

- ✓ To connect a reason to a result
- ✓ To refer to a *reason*

EXAMPLE

Newfoundlanders have a love of seafood, for they have been fishing for centuries.

AND

- ✓ To connect equal similar ideas
- ✓ To refer to *addition*

EXAMPLE

The children enjoy swimming in the pond, and hiking on the nearby trails.

NOR

- ✓ To connect two negative independent clauses/ideas
- ✓ To refer to *negative options (not)*
- ✓ Note: question word order

EXAMPLE

The students do not drink in the exam room, nor do they eat.

BUT

- ✓ To connect equal different ideas (direct opposite ideas)
- ✓ To refer to contrast

EXAMPLE

Technology can be an asset, but too much of it can create problems.

OR

- ✓ To connect two equal selections
- ✓ To refer to a *choice* (possibility)

EXAMPLE

People should be cautious when sitting in the sun for a long time, or they will have serious consequences.

YET

- ✓ To connect an unexpected or surprising consequence

EXAMPLE

Tom recognizes that he is tired, yet he stays up late watching television.

SO

- ✓ To connect an expected result

EXAMPLE

The rain intensified, so the outdoor music festival was postponed.



Punctuation rule

- Use a comma in front of the coordinator

CAUTION

- In academic writing, it is best to avoid using **but**, **and**, or **so** at the beginning of a sentence.
- **nor** requires two negative sentences. **nor** follows an inverted word order.

The weather did not discourage the musicians. The weather did not influence the audience attendance.

The weather did not discourage the musician, nor did it influence the audience attendance.

- Both **but** and **yet** indicate opposite ideas. However, **but** is used for direct opposites, while **yet** is used for an unexpected idea and possibly a surprise.

*She wished to travel to Scotland, **but** her friend wished to travel to Portugal.*

*She planned to work in Portugal, **yet** she does not speak Portuguese.*

SOURCES

- Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2017). Longman Academic Writing Series 4 (4th ed., pp. 175-177). Pearson Education.
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Contact us

Writing Centre SN-2053
writing@mun.ca
709-864-3168