

WHAT IS A COORDINATING CONJUNCTION?

A coordinating conjunction, also called a coordinate conjunction, is a conjunction that is used to **connect words, phrases, clauses, and sentences** together. Coordinating conjunctions are very commonly used in all kinds of writing and speech. Here are just some of the parts of speech we can connect using coordinating conjunctions:

- **Nouns:** Eagles *and* falcons are birds.
- **Verbs:** She didn't know if she should stay *or* go.
- **Adjectives:** The pepper is spicy *yet* sweet.
- **Adverbs:** He snuck quickly *and* quietly.
- **Prepositional phrases:** You can get there by air *or* by sea.
- **Noun phrases:** Reading books *and* playing guitar are two of my hobbies.
- **Clauses:** My sister likes the winter, *but* I prefer the summer.

LIST OF COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

Some of the mostly commonly used words are coordinating conjunctions. Most grammar resources agree that English has seven coordinating conjunctions. A popular mnemonic device used to remember them is **FANBOYS**:

F A N B O Y S

For And Nor But Or Yet So

- **For:** We sometimes use *for* as a conjunction meaning 'because'. We use it in very formal, and often literary, contexts:
 - *She remained silent, **for** her heart was heavy and her spirits low.*
- **And:** We use *and* to join two words, phrases, parts of sentences, or related statements together:
 - *I'll have bacon **and** eggs for breakfast.*
- **Nor:** We use *nor* after a negative statement in order to introduce another negative statement containing a similar kind of information:
 - *I don't expect children to be rude, **nor** do I expect to be disobeyed.*
- **But:** We use *but* to introduce an added statement, usually something that is different from what you have said before:
 - *She's very hard-working **but** not very imaginative.*
 - *This is not caused by evil, **but** by simple ignorance.*
- **Or:** We use *or* to connect two or more possibilities or alternatives. It connects words, phrases and clauses which are the same grammatical type:
 - *Which do you prefer? Leather **or** suede?*
 - *You can have some freshly baked scones **or** some chocolate cake or both.*
- **Yet:** We use *yet* to add something that seems surprising because of what you have just said:
 - *Melissa was not doing well in her physics course, **yet** overall she had a B average.*
- **So:** We sometimes use *so* as a conjunction meaning 'for that reason'; 'therefore':
 - *My knee started hurting, **so** I stopped running.*



TITLE:

Coordinating Conjunctions

IELTS

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A COORDINATING CONJUNCTION?

1. Coordinating conjunctions, like other conjunctions, are used to **connect words, phrases, clauses, and sentences**. However, coordinating conjunctions have some important roles that only they can fill.
2. By using coordinating conjunctions, we can **form compound sentences**. A compound sentence is a sentence formed from two or more independent clauses.
 - *Gary's favorite color is red, **and** Eric's favorite color is blue.*
3. Coordinating conjunctions are often used to **form a list or series** that has more than two members:
 - *Jeff, Kelly, **and** Leo are my friends.*
 - *Should I go left, right, **or** straight?*

PROPER COMMA USAGE WHEN COMBINING CLAUSES

- i. If a coordinating conjunction is used to **connect two things that aren't independent clauses**, you **don't need a comma**. For example,
 - **No commas:**
*We love to dance **and** sing.*
*Hand me a purple **or** blue crayon.*
*The soup was hot **but** delicious.*
- ii. If a coordinating conjunction is used to **connect independent clauses**, it **must follow a comma**:
 - *My dad lives in Texas, **and** my mom lives in California.*
 - *We could go play outside, **or** we could play board games in my room.*
- iii. In general, a coordinating conjunction that appears **at the end of a list or series with more than three members** is **preceded by a comma**:
 - *I bought two shirts, two hats, **and** three pairs of socks.*
 - *Matt couldn't remember if Nicole's hair was brown, black, **or** red.*

Sources:

- *Cambridge Advanced Dictionary*
- *Dictionary of Thesaurus*

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