

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that join other words, phrases, or clauses.

*Vang **and** Heiu got good jobs in San Jose.*
*Would you like to eat in the kitchen **or** on the deck?*
*Rina's bringing a cake, **but** I'll make brownies anyway.*

If a conjunction joins two words (*Vang and Heiu*) or two phrases (*in the kitchen or on the deck*), it doesn't take a comma. But if it joins two independent clauses, a comma must precede it (*Rina's bringing a cake, but I'll make brownies anyway*).

If a conjunction joins a list of more than two things, a comma should precede the conjunction:

*We'll park our cars, buy our ticket, **and** meet at the Ferris wheel.*
*We have neither the time, the energy, **nor** the money to do that.*

FANBOYS

Common conjunctions, sometimes called by the acronym FANBOYS, include *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*.

<i>for</i>	<i>We were late, for there was an accident on the bridge.</i>
<i>and</i>	<i>He likes both dogs and cats.</i>
<i>nor</i>	<i>She likes neither dogs nor cats.</i>
<i>but</i>	<i>I'll go to the concert, but I would rather stay home.</i>
<i>or</i>	<i>You can pay the ticket or go to court and fight it.</i>
<i>yet</i>	<i>She is exhausted yet determined.</i>
<i>so</i>	<i>I'll be first in line, so I can save you a place.</i>

Coordinating conjunctions

When a FANBOYS joins two independent clauses, it is a *coordinating* conjunction, and the two complete thoughts that are thus joined are considered equal:

*We were late, **for** there was an accident on the bridge.*
*I'll be first in line, **so** I can save you a place.*

Subordinating conjunctions

Other conjunctions join a complete thought to an incomplete thought. These conjunctions are *subordinating* conjunctions. The clause that begins with the subordinating conjunction is not a complete thought—it is a fragment that must be joined to a complete thought. Here are some common subordinating conjunctions:

<i>although</i>	<i>Although there was an accident, we still arrived on time.</i>
<i>because</i>	<i>Because I'll be first in line, I can save you a place.</i>
<i>if</i>	<i>I won't go to the concert if it is too expensive.</i>
<i>since</i>	<i>We haven't seen them since we were children.</i>
<i>when</i>	<i>When you get to the game, call me.</i>
<i>while</i>	<i>She'll read the contract while she waits.</i>

Contributed by Rosemary McKeever



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