

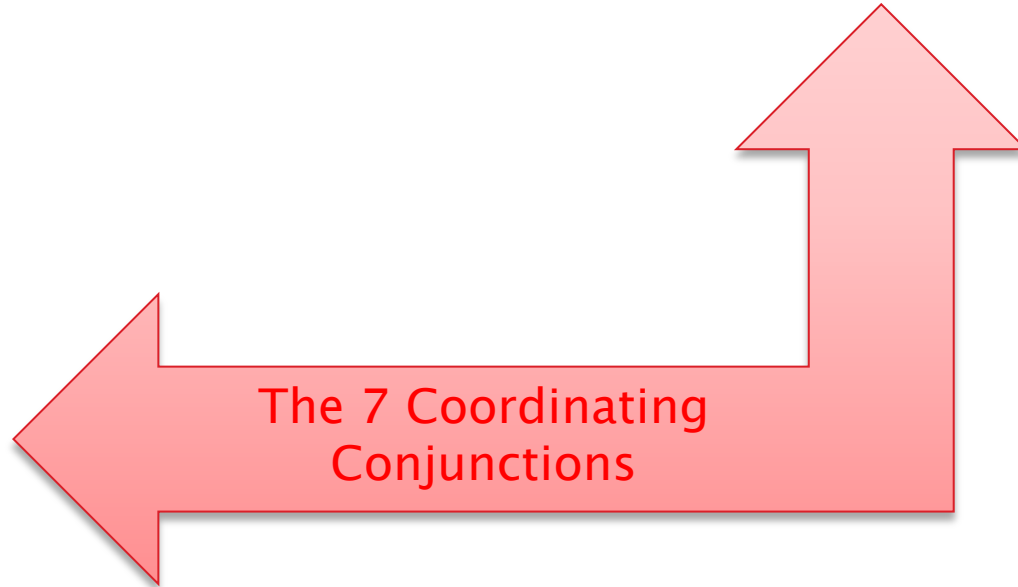
Commas and Conjunctions

» CONJUNCTIONS

they bring objects together

A coordinating conjunction is a word that connects or joins words or groups of words to each other.

- ▶ For
- ▶ And
- ▶ Nor
- ▶ But
- ▶ Or
- ▶ Yet
- ▶ So



Breaking It Down...

- ▶ The word **FOR** is most often used as a preposition, of course, but it does serve, on rare occasions, as a coordinating conjunction. It deals mostly with sequence or the order of things.
- I hate to waste a single drop of squid eyeball stew, *for* it is expensive and time-consuming to make.

Breaking It Down

- When you want to join words or phrases, use the conjunction **and**.
 - and = in addition to
 - Ex. The bowl of squid eyeball stew is hot *and* delicious.

Breaking It Down

- ▶ The conjunction, **nor**, means not or neither.
 - Ex. Rocky refuses to eat dry cat food, *nor* will he touch a saucer of squid eyeball stew.

Breaking It Down

- ▶ When a sentence has two things that are in conflict or that are opposites, use the conjunction **but**.
 - but = however
 - Ex. Rocky, my orange tomcat, loves having his head scratched *but* hates getting his claws trimmed.

Breaking It Down

- ▶ When there is a choice between two or more options, use the conjunction **or**.
 - or = alternatively
 - Ex. The squid eyeball stew is so thick that you can eat it with a fork *or* spoon.

Breaking It Down

- ▶ **Yet** functions as a coordinating conjunction meaning something like "nevertheless" or "but."
 - yet = however
 - Ex. Rocky terrorizes the poodles next door *yet* adores the German shepherd across the street.

FANBOYS: Breakin' it Down

- ▶ When one thing is a result of another, use the conjunction **so**.
 - Ex. Even though I added cream to the squid eyeball stew, Rocky ignored his serving, *so* I got a spoon and ate it myself.



Commas

enclosing words, phrases,
and clauses since the beginning of time.

A panda walks into a bar. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air.

"Why? Why are you behaving in this strange, un-panda-like fashion?" asks the confused waiter, as the panda walks towards the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder.

"I'm a panda," he says, at the door. "Look it up." The waiter turns to the relevant entry and, sure enough, finds an explanation.

"Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."



▶ 8 Comma Usage Rules

Rule 1: Commas separate parts of a series, words, phrases, and clauses

- ▶ Do not use a comma if all items are joined by and or or.
- ▶ Example
 - Romeo, Juliet, and Friar Laurence were present at the ceremony.
 - Falling in love, getting married, and ending the feud all occurred in less than a week.
 - Romeo and Juliet had as advisors the nurse and Friar Laurence and Benvolio.

Rule 2: Commas separate two or more adjectives preceding a noun.

▶ Example

- Young, beautiful Juliet married daring, dashing Romeo.
- The dark, stormy night was frightening.

Rule 3: Use a comma before *for, and, nor, but, or, yet and so* to separate independent clauses in compound sentences.

▶ Example

- Rocky refuses to eat dry cat food, *nor* will he touch a saucer of squid eyeball stew.
- We looked through the school, *and* we searched outside the building.

Rule 4: Commas separate participial phrases and adjective clauses that are nonessential. Commas do not set off phrases or clauses that are essential to the meaning of the sentence.

▶ **Example**

- Juliet, who is a Capulet, married her Montague enemy.
- Awakened by the lark, Juliet wished it to be a nightingale.

Rule 5: Commas follow participial phrases, adverb clauses, words such as well, yes, no, and names of direct address that begin sentences.

▶ **Example**

- When Romeo and Juliet first met, they spoke in sonnet form.
- Having learned that Romeo killed Tybalt, the Prince Escalus banished the young Montague.
- Yes, the story is a tragedy.

Rule 6: Use commas to enclose interrupters such as, most appositives and appositive phrases, titles and degrees after a name, words in direct address

- ▶ Do not use commas if the appositive is used for emphasis or identifies the person or thing by telling which one of two or more.
- ▶ Example
 - Verona, the setting for the play, is in Italy.
 - Go, Juliet, to Friar Laurence's cell.
 - Mark Ferguson, Ph.D., is pursuing a new career in the literary field.

Rule 7: Commas separate a quotation from its source, such as "he said" or "she said."

▶ Example

- When he first saw West Side Story, Juan said, "This story is similar to Romeo and Juliet."

Rule 8: Commas are used in certain conventional situations such as, items in dates or addresses and after the salutation of a friendly letter and closing of any letter.

▶ **Example**

- May 23, 1990, is her birthday.
- Nashville, Tennessee, is his hometown.
- Dear Romeo,
- June 15, 1994

Comma/Conjunction Group Writing

- ▶ On the top of a blank sheet of paper, write of the following story starters:
 - It was a strange night, there seemed to be a chill in the air...
 - As soon as I arrived, I could sense that something was out of place...
 - Sometimes I think my friend has strange powers. Every time he's around...
 - All of the sudden I was trapped!

Group Writing Guidelines

- ▶ Write your name on the left of the top line of your paper.
- ▶ Begin your story. Write 6 sentences. 3 of which must include one of the 8 comma rules.
- ▶ Exchange papers with someone else.
- ▶ Write your name in the left margin and add 6 new sentences to continue the story. 3 of which must include one of the 8 comma rules. **Exchange.**
- ▶ **Everyone must contribute to 3 stories, eventually, using all 8 rules.**