Coordinating conjunctions connect two equal words, phrases, or clauses.

There are seven coordinating conjunctions: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. A useful strategy to remember them is to memorize the acronym **FANBOYS:** 

F	A	N	В	0	Y	S
0	n	0	u	r	е	0
r	d	r	t		t	

An independent clause can stand by itself as a complete sentence. To join two independent clauses, writers often use a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction. The basic structure of a sentence that uses a coordinating conjunction is as follows:

Subject + verb + object, [coordinating conjunction] subject + verb + object.

Joining two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction creates a *compound sentence*.

Examples: I like football, *and* I like hockey.

The directions are complicated, *but* I am starting to understand them.

In the first example, the coordinating conjunction is *and*. It separates the two independent clauses:

. In the second example, the coordinating conjunction is *but*. It separates the two independent clauses:

In both examples, there is an independent clause on both sides of the coordinating conjunction, and a comma is required before the coordinating conjunction.

Coordinating conjunctions can connect two words. When just two words are connected using a

Examples: My favorite foods are burritos *and* sushi.

I will eat either a hamburger *or* a hotdog.

Coordinating conjunctions can also join more than two items. In a series that lists more than two items, the coordinating conjunction precedes the final item. A comma should be placed before the coordinating conjunction.

Examples: I recently bought new straps, pedals, *and* toe clips for my bike.

Jaime wants a tablet, a sword, *or* a cell phone for his birthday.

Coordinating conjunctions can also join phrases. When two phrases are connected using a coordinating conjunction, no comma is needed.

Examples: I want to study at my university library *or* at the local coffee shop.

Phil was entranced by th and graceful movements.

Insert commas and coordinating conjunctions (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) when appropriate to complete the sentences.

1. My favorite desserts include cookies, cheesecake \_\_\_\_ tiramisu.

