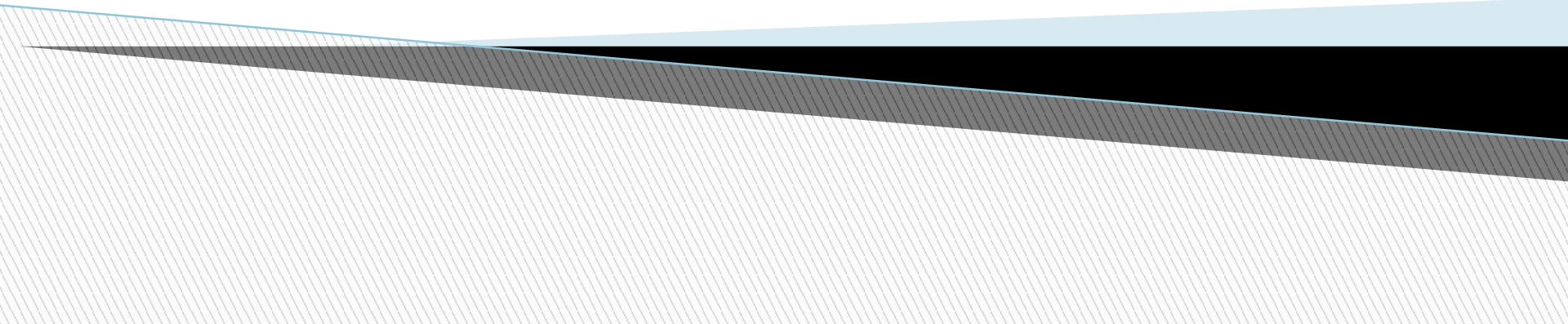


Commas and Conjunctions

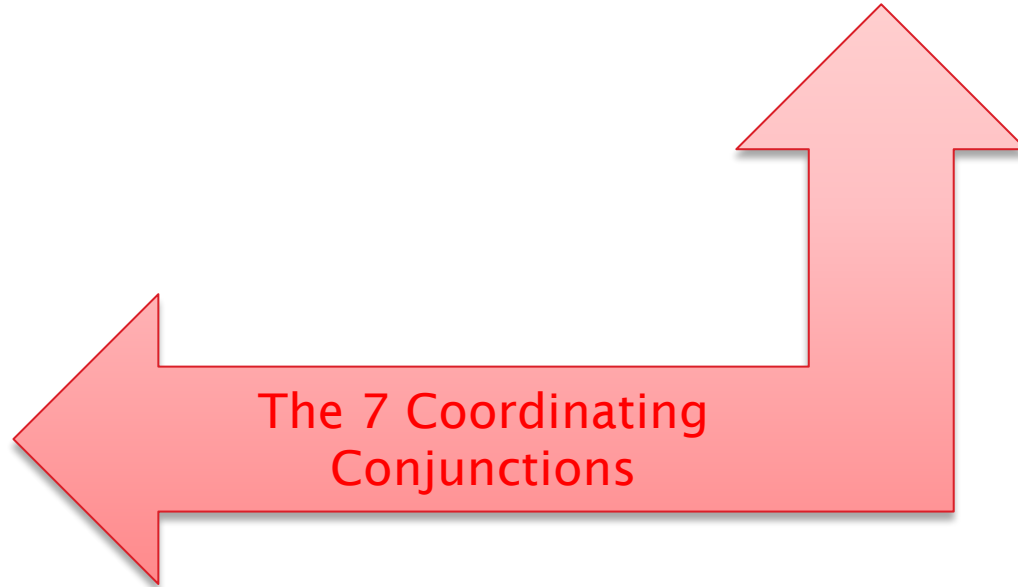


» CONJUNCTIONS

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



FANBOYS: Breakin' 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.

FANBOYS: Breakin' 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.

FANBOYS: Breakin' 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.

FANBOYS: Breakin' 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.

FANBOYS: Breakin' 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.

FANBOYS: Breakin' 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."



Comma Crash Course

▣ 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.

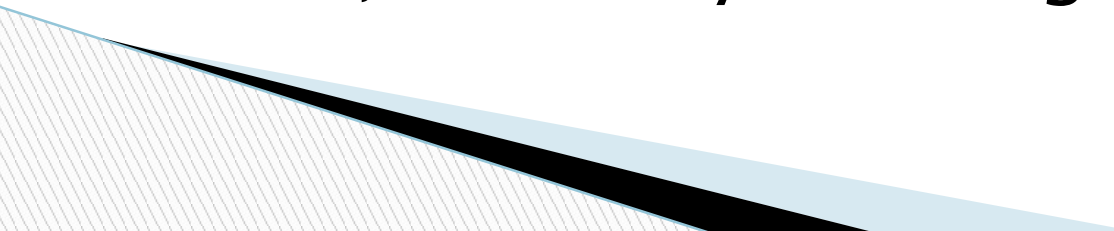
Rule 4: Commas separate participial phrases and adjective clauses that are nonessential. Commas do not set off phrases or clauses that are essential to the meaning of the sentence.

□ 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 Write

- 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 write 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.**