


Module 8: Drama – *Romeo and Juliet*

Topic 7 Content: Taking a Closer Look at "Nor"

Introduction

Taking a Closer Look at "Nor"

Introduction



The coordinating conjunction *nor* is used mostly with clauses, although it is occasionally used to link words or phrases. Among the seven standard coordinators, *nor* is the one that causes the most confusion regarding correct usage. Some of this has to do with how usage of the word *nor* has evolved over time. Likewise, *nor* tends to modify the order of other words in the sentence, whereas the other coordinating conjunctions can link grammatical elements without requiring further change. Due to the added complexity of using *nor* as a coordinating conjunction, take a moment to focus on the use of this coordinator so that you will be able to create your own sentences using *nor* correctly. Use the **NEXT** button or the numbered tabs to learn more.

1 2 3 4

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What Is Negation?

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What Is Negation?

The coordinating conjunction *nor* is used to negate an additional idea. In the grammatical sense, negative words do not mean "bad" or "unfavorable." Negation simply means that you are refuting an idea. For example, the sentence

Everyone steals.

is a positive statement, grammatically speaking. On the other hand, the sentence

No one steals.

is a negative statement in the grammatical sense. In the first sentence, there are people (everyone = affirmative) and in the second sentence there are no people (no one = negative).

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Using "Nor" to Negate

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Using "Nor" to Negate

1. To negate a positive sentence such as
I like petting cats.
you would say:
I do not like petting cats.
2. To add an additional idea to the positive sentence, you would say:
I like petting cats, *and* I enjoy walking dogs.
3. To add an additional idea to the negative sentence, you would say:
I do not like petting cats, *nor* do I enjoy walking dogs.

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Inversion With "Nor"

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Inversion With "Nor"

In the prior example:

I do not like petting cats, *nor* do I enjoy walking dogs.

notice that use of *nor* requires you to reverse the order of the subject and the auxiliary verb in the second clause. In the second clause, the subject is *I* and the auxiliary verb is *do*.

In a positive clause, you place the subject first:

I do enjoy.

In a negative clause, you have to invert the word order and put the auxiliary verb first:

***nor* do I enjoy.**

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"Or" Versus "Nor"

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"Or" Versus "Nor"

If a parent were to describe her child, should she say *He is not shy or sociable*, or should she say *He is not shy nor sociable*?

In this example, the coordinating conjunction is connecting single words (*shy* and *sociable*). In the past, it was more common to use the coordinating conjunction *nor* when linking words or phrases in affirmative sentences. However, it is now more preferable to use the coordinating conjunction *or* when linking words or phrases in affirmative sentences.

Keep in mind that you should use only *nor* with negative clauses or when paired with the word *neither*.

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