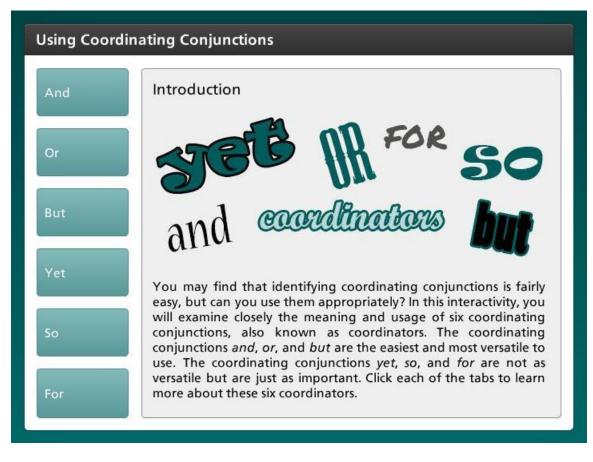
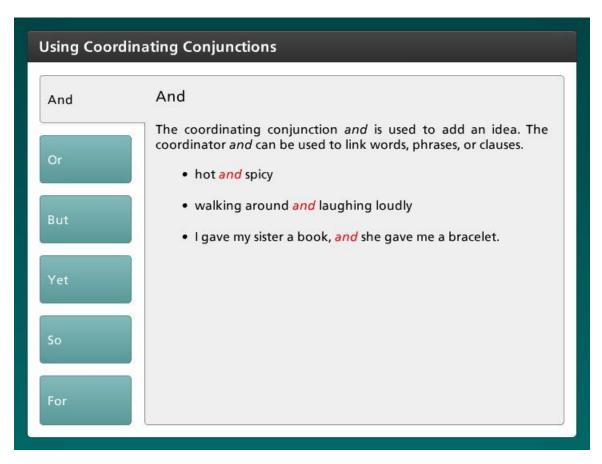
Introduction



You may find that identifying coordinating conjunctions is fairly easy, but can you use them appropriately? In this interactivity, you will examine closely the meaning and usage of six coordinating conjunctions, also known as coordinators. The coordinating conjunctions *and*, *or*, and *but* are the easiest and most versatile to use. The coordinating conjunctions *yet*, *so*, and *for* are not as versatile but are just as important. Click each of the tabs to learn more about these six coordinators.



And

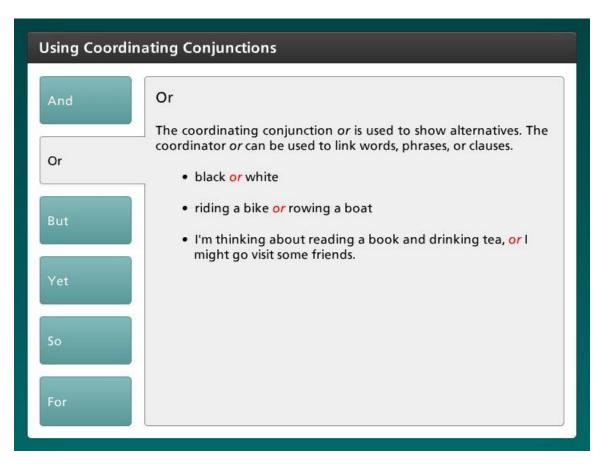


The coordinating conjunction *and* is used to add an idea. The coordinator *and* can be used to link words, phrases, or clauses.

- hot *and* spicy
- walking around *and* laughing loudly
- I gave my sister a book, *and* she gave me a bracelet.



Or

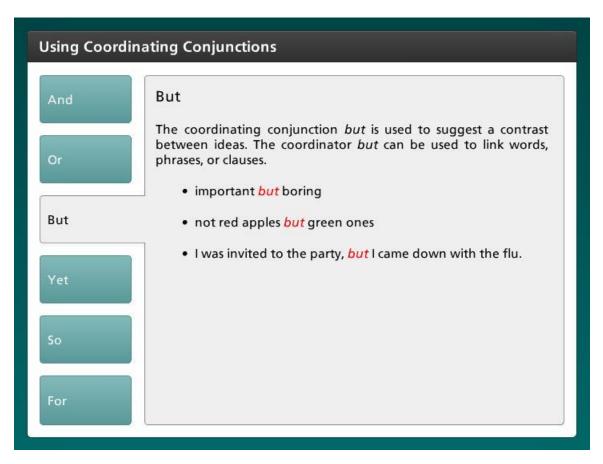


The coordinating conjunction *or* is used to show alternatives. The coordinator *or* can be used to link words, phrases, or clauses.

- black *or* white
- riding a bike *or* rowing a boat
- I'm thinking about reading a book and drinking tea, *or* I might go visit some friends.



But

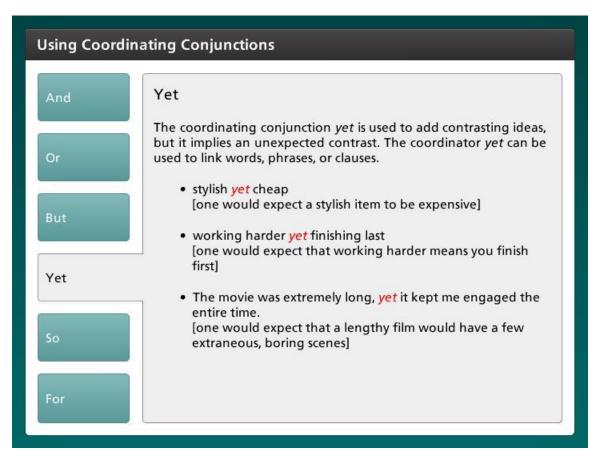


The coordinating conjunction *but* is used to suggest a contrast between ideas. The coordinator *but* can be used to link words, phrases, or clauses.

- important *but* boring
- not red apples *but* green ones
- I was invited to the party, *but* I came down with the flu.



Yet

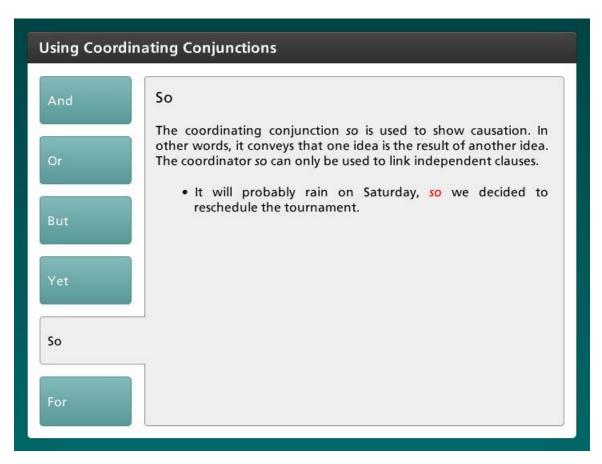


The coordinating conjunction *yet* is used to add contrasting ideas, but it implies an unexpected contrast. The coordinator *yet* can be used to link words, phrases, or clauses.

- stylish *yet* cheap [one would expect a stylish item to be expensive]
- working harder *yet* finishing last [one would expect that working harder means you finish first]
- The movie was extremely long, *yet* it kept me engaged the entire time. [one would expect that a lengthy film would have a few extraneous, boring scenes]



So

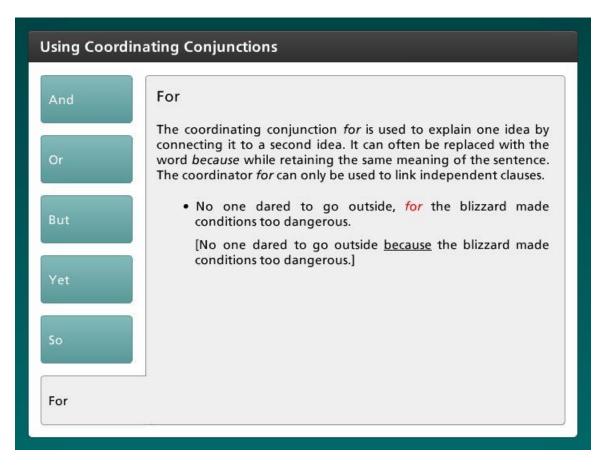


The coordinating conjunction *so* is used to show causation. In other words, it conveys that one idea is the result of another idea. The coordinator *so* can only be used to link independent clauses.

• It will probably rain on Saturday, *so* we decided to reschedule the tournament.



For



The coordinating conjunction *for* is used to explain one idea by connecting it to a second idea. It can often be replaced with the word *because* while retaining the same meaning of the sentence. The coordinator *for* can only be used to link independent clauses.

• No one dared to go outside, *for* the blizzard made conditions too dangerous.

[No one dared to go outside because the blizzard made conditions too dangerous.]

