

# And, But, Or, and So Statements

*And, But, Or,* and *So* are part of a group of words called coordinating conjunctions. You can use the letters in the words BOY FANS to remember coordinating conjunctions in this list:

**But Or Yet For And Nor So**

These conjunctions are used in compound sentences. They divide the two independent clauses (complete ideas) that make up the compound sentence. Using coordinating conjunctions effectively gives your sentences variety and complexity.

Think of the first clause as the *occasion*—your reason for writing. Think of the second clause as the *position*—what you plan to prove or explain.

Use a comma before the coordinating conjunction, like this: **, and . . . , but . . . , or . . . and , so . . .**

## Examples

The understanding of genetics revolutionized biology, **and** this made genetic engineering possible.

All musical styles are represented in American culture, **but** jazz developed as a uniquely American art form.

Fewer people were willing to drive downtown to shop, **so** city officials proposed more public events there to attract customers.

## Additional Examples

- Reptiles share characteristics such as backbones, lungs, and scales, **yet** they have a wide variety of sizes and shapes.
- School boards should not cut art and music programs, **nor** should they sacrifice other popular electives that keep more students engaged with school.
- Everyone in the United States should familiarize themselves with the U.S. Constitution, **for** it is the document that guarantees our fundamental freedoms and rights.