

(6) CC – Coordinating Conjunction Forms

The **Coordinating Conjunction (CC) forms** apply only to Coordinating Conjunctions that join **one or more clauses that are independent**, which means that they can stand on their own, and make sense all by themselves.

The conjunction is called a *coordinating conjunction* because it brings together two equal and independent clauses. The independent clause on one side of the coordinating clause is equal to the independent clause on the other side. No one clause is more dominant over or subservient to another, but they are both of equal value and weight, because they are both independent, and not dependent.

When coordinating conjunctions are used to join words or phrases and not independent clauses, the sentence belongs to the Fc (Form 1.5) group.

6 CC	Coordinating Conjunctions Forms		
6.1 6.2	1. and	2. but	
6.3 6.4	3. or		4. nor
6.5 6.6 6.7	5. for	6. so	7. yet

When joining words or phrases, as we showed in Form 1.5, some conjunctions were not always usable. But here, when joining independent clauses, *all* of the coordinating conjunctions are usable without exception.

In most instances, a comma is placed before the coordinating conjunction. If either or both clauses are long, or if there is a list of options (as in this sentence), then a comma is placed before the conjunction. **The comma can be omitted if both clauses are short to effect a more fluid style or faster pace.**

Coordinating Conjunction Form 6.1:

Coordinating Conjunctions – Clause - and

Footnote Code: CC-CL-and

Note: Two independent clauses are combined.

Examples:

- (1) I knew I had very little time or energy left, **and** the wind was starting to pick up.
- (2) She was late for class, **and** her research paper was due.

- (3) Joshua will clean his room, **and** Caleb will take out the trash.
- (4) Jane will do the report, **and** Sally will do the briefing.
- (5) Forgive us our trespasses, **and** deliver us from evil.
- (6) “Meg wanted a few curls about her face, **and** Jo undertook to pinch the papered locks with a pair of hot tongs.” (Louisa Alcott in *Little Women*)
- (7) Tom washed the family car, **and** Brenda cleaned out the garage.
- (8) “Choose a job you love, **and** you’ll never have to work a day in your life.” [Chinese proverb]
- (9) “Plow deep while others sleep, **and** you shall have corn to eat and keep.” [English proverb from Michael Lynberg’s *A Wealth of Wisdom*]
- (10) “They push numbered buttons on wall plaques, **and** doors open.” (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being*)
- (11) “We arise from dirt and dwindle to dirt, **and** the might of the universe is arrayed against us.” (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being*)
- omitted comma before the conjunction**
- (12) “Someone had put coal on **and** he heard voices.” (James Joyce in *Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man*)
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Coordinating Conjunction Form 6.2:

Coordinating Conjunctions – Clause - but

Footnote Code: CC-CL-but

Note: Two independent clauses are combined.

Examples:

- (1) She was in a hurry, **but** the bus didn’t come.
- (2) “If I go, there will be trouble, **but** if I stay, it will be double.” – The Clash
- (3) I want to go to the bar tonight, **but** I’ve got a lot of homework.
- (4) John went to school, **but** he did not feel well.
- (5) You look ready, **but** I think you forgot to do up one button on your vest.
- (6) “Mankind may be intelligent enough to invent the radio and wireless telephones, **but** mankind is simply not intelligent enough to stop wars nor will ever be.” (Lin Yutang in *The Importance of Living*)
- (7) Nobody lives in the Empire State Building, **but** it has many floors of offices and shops.
- (8) Billy was waiting for Georgia’s call, **but** she left a love letter in his mailbox instead.
- (9) Kurt was ready to go to the airport, **but** Kirstin was still looking for her plane ticket.
- (10) Her father was a Phys. Ed. teacher, **but** she wanted to be an astronomer.
- (11) In North America, there is the shopping mall, **but** in South Korea, there is the shopping building.

omitted comma before the conjunction

- (12) The sky was pale and cold **but** there were lights in the castle.” (James Joyce in *Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man*)

Coordinating Conjunction Form 6.3:

Coordinating Conjunctions – Clause - or

Footnote Code: CC-CL-or**Note:** Two independent clauses are coordinated or combined in disjunction. If the first clause is short, the comma can be omitted.**Examples:**

- (1) We will have to buy a new car, **or** we will be walking.
- (2) I can tell you, and you save yourself a lot of trouble, **or** you disregard my advice, and find out the hard way.
- (3) We will have to raise the employees' salaries, **or** they will quit.
- (4) You should do the dishes now, **or** you can air out the carpets later.
- (5) The secretary will phone you about the meeting, **or** you will receive a copy of the minutes by email.

omitted comma before the conjunction

- (6) Should I stay **or** should I go now?
- (7) You can send an email **or** you can send a real mail.

Coordinating Conjunction Form 6.4:

Coordinating Conjunctions – Clause - nor

Footnote Code: CC-CL-nor**Note:** Two independent clauses are combined. With this form, note that in the second independent clause, *the auxiliary part of the main verb comes before the subject*, rather than the usual way in which *the subject comes before the whole main verb*.**Examples:**

- (1) She could not pay for the class herself, **nor** could she convince her mother to give her the money for it.
 - (2) He had no intentions of seeking another degree, **nor** did he have the time to worry about it any longer.
 - (3) I wouldn't approve of that, **nor** would I give money to support that.
 - (4) I was not hungry, **nor** was I thirsty.
 - (5) None of the students aced the exam, **nor** did any of them receive excellence in the community service category.
 - (6) He will not be allowed to go out and play, **nor** will he be allowed to watch television.
 - (7) The dog would not sit, **nor** would he roll over.
 - (8) "Injustice has parceled out the world, **nor** is there equal division of aught save of sorrow." (Oscar Wilde in *The Star-Child*)
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Coordinating Conjunction Form 6.5: Coordinating Conjunctions - Clause**Footnote Code:** CC-CL-for**Note:** Two independent clauses are combined.**Examples:**

- (1) He was thinking of changing his minor, **for** Psychology doesn't quite interest him enough.
- (2) I came inside, **for** it had started to snow.
- (3) James read the book, **for** he was interested in computers.
- (4) The people returned to the store, **for** the service was outstanding.
- (5) The meeting went late, **for** many people stayed back and asked the speaker questions.
- (6) "...she longed to go and join them, **for** skating was one of the joys of her life." (Louisa Alcott in *Little Women*)

omitted comma before the conjunction

- (7) "He was glad **for** his mouth was hot and dry." (James Joyce in *Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man*)

Coordinating Conjunction Form 6.6:

Coordinating Conjunctions – Clause - so

Footnote Code: CC-CL-so**Note:** Two independent clauses are combined.**Examples:**

- (1) My class is starting in a few minutes, **so** I have to go now.
- (2) She hadn't shown up yet, **so** I sat on the bench and read a book.
- (3) The bus was late, **so** I took a taxi.
- (4) When she saw the ice cream vendor Mary realized she was short of money, **so** she ran all the way back home to get more.
- (5) I have a lot to do right now, **so** I won't be able to meet you today.
- (6) It was a beautiful day, **so** he decided to walk to work.
- (7) The semester was over and she had graduated, **so** after a short vacation she started to look for a job.
- (8) The class finished early, **so** I went for a walk to see the cherry blossoms.
- (9) My sister dropped by unexpectedly, **so** we all decided to go out for lunch.
- (10) "Rocks and other sands blast the surfaces, **so** windblown sands don't sparkle like young river sands." (Annie Dillard in *For the Time Being*)

omitted comma before the conjunction

- (11) I turned up the radio **so** I could listen to the jazz music.
- (12) I took my pills **so** I won't feel any pain.

Coordinating Conjunction Form 6.7:

Coordinating Conjunctions – Clause - yet

Footnote Code: CC-CL-yet

Note: Two independent clauses are combined.

Examples:

- (1) I hate being busy, **yet** I hate being bored even more.
- (2) I went to his school guidance counselor for assistance, **yet** the counselor was of little help.
- (3) She asked her mother to give her the money for the dance class, **yet** her mother was insistent that she [must] get a job to pay for it herself.
- (4) He wanted to move to Mongolia, **yet** he hesitated because he knew the salary would be quite lower.
- (5) I couldn't wait to leave Washington, D.C., **yet** now I miss it.
- (6) Many chose to write their essay, **yet** the easiest way was to type it on a computer.
- (7) The price was expensive, **yet** the widgets continued to sell like hotcakes.
- (8) Sidney Poitier came from a poor background in the Bahamas, **yet** he went on to prove himself a superlative actor in Hollywood cinema.
- (9) The player is short, **yet** he still gets by the tall players and scores baskets.
- (10) You keep practicing these forms, **yet** you must wonder if you're really getting better at them.