



ENGLISH REVISION AID (7)

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are little words which connect different parts of a sentence or a phrase together. The simple, little ones are called *coordinating conjunctions*, try using the acronym FABNOSY to remember them:

For And But Neither...nor Or So Yet

It may also help to remember that all of these words have fewer than four letters. The most common of these coordinating conjunctions are AND, BUT and OR. Here are just a few examples of the ways it is possible to use these little words:

1) AND

- a. When one action or idea follows another: *Paul kicked the ball and scored a goal.*
- b. When an action or an idea is the direct result of another: *Claire saw the accident and immediately phoned the ambulance.*
- c. When an idea is in contrast to another (sometimes *and* is replaced by *but* here): *my cat is clever and my dog has a friendly personality.*
- d. When one part of a sentence (usually the second) is dependant on another: *don't do your homework and you'll soon find yourself at the bottom of your class.*

2) BUT

- a. When there is an unexpected contrast in the second part of the sentence: *Billy was an extremely poor man but he was very honest.*
- b. When you want to connect two ideas with the meaning 'with the exception of': *all the girls but Sarah had finished their homework.*

3) OR

- a. When only one of the two possibilities can be realized: *Gregg can study for his vocabulary test or he can fail.*
- b. When there are alternatives: *we can play cricket or just stay indoors.*

The Others ...

- Neither....nor: although this pair does not come up often in speech, it is a useful when using negative expressions: *that is neither what James said nor what he meant.*
- Yet: a distinctive way of saying 'nevertheless' or 'but': *Rachel plays tennis extremely well yet her favourite sport is netball.*
- For: this is used as a conjunction when giving a reason for something: *the children were happy to be running around for it had been a long journey in the car.*
- So: using this as a conjunction usually means that the second part of a sentence is a consequence of the first: *Helen raised her voice so that she could be heard.*