



Commas Before 'And'

(AND ITS
OTHER FANBOY FRIENDS)

Remember your FANBOYS?

FANBOYS like *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so* are coordinating conjunctions.

- They join two independent clauses and require a comma.

1. We watched my favorite movie last night, **but** my best friend did not like that it was three hours long.
2. I cannot keep up with my calendar, **so** I missed two appointments last week.
3. Nora spends too much time on Instagram, **yet** she did not even comment on my pictures from Maui.



Use the right conjunction

Conjunction show relationships, so choose the right one.

- But, yet, nor= contrast
- And=sequencing, addition, express dependence
- So= cause, logical conclusion, functions like 'therefore'
- For=sequencing, functions like 'because' or 'since', provides reasoning for prior clause
- Or=provide options, a negative scenario, or alternative ideas

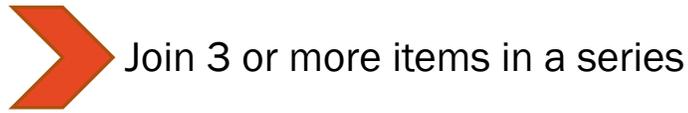
'And' *can be* very independent

Use 'and' without a comma to join two items

- An independent clause begins the sentence followed by two items connected with 'and'.
- No comma needed.

1. We watched my favorite movie yesterday **and** spent the evening discussing its visual effects.
2. My calendar is packed with trips **and** work requirements.
3. Nora lives for Instagram **but** despises Facebook.



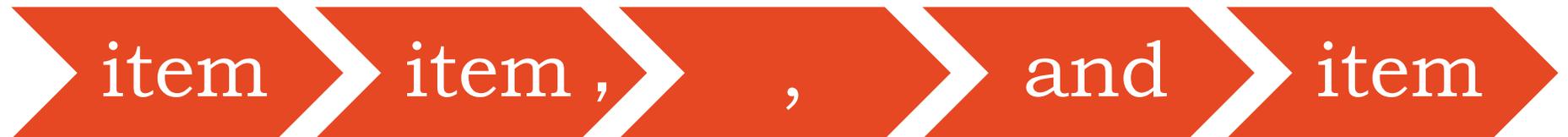


Items in a series need a comma

Lists need a comma to separate items.

- Include a comma between 3 or more items.

1. We watched my favorite movies including *Mary Poppins*, *The Neverending Story*, and *Blade Runner*.
2. My summer is packed with trips to the Whitewater Center, Asheville, and Myrtle Beach.
3. Jared lives for Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok.



About that last comma in a series...

The final comma in a series is called an Oxford comma.

- Some documentation styles do not require that last comma (the one before 'and').

1. We watched my favorite movies including *Mary Poppins*, *The Neverending Story*, and *Blade Runner*.

Oxford comma



No Oxford comma



1. My summer is packed with trips to the Whitewater Center, Asheville, and Myrtle Beach.

Oxford comma



2. Jared lives for Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok.

Practice

Identify whether a comma is needed or not.

1. When Astrid found her hamster missing from its cage she searched the bookcase under the sofa and all around the kitchen before finding the little rodent in dangling from the curtains.
2. Should I bring a rainjacket or a poncho to the mountains this weekend?
3. Her sneezes rattle the windows and spray germs everywhere.
4. I was in a distracted frenzy last night and the pie in the oven burned to a crisp.

Answers

Identify whether a comma is needed or not.

1. When Astrid found her hamster missing from its cage, she searched the bookcase, under the sofa, and all around the kitchen before finding the little rodent in dangling from the curtains.
2. Should I bring a rainjacket or a poncho to the mountains this weekend? none
3. Her sneezes rattle the windows and spray germs everywhere. none
4. I was in a distracted frenzy last night, and the pie in the oven burned to a crisp.