

## Coordination: Conjunctions

### and or (nor) for yet but so

I. Coordination gives equal “weight” to both sides of the sentence:

- a) I wanted to attend an excellent university, **and** I wanted to stay in the East Coast. (both things are equally important)
- b) Plagiarism of any sort is a bad idea, **for** it will always result in serious consequences.
- c) George wants to be healthy, **yet** he refuses to stop smoking.

II. Coordination is one way of adding variety to sentence types. It also helps you to combine sentences for better flow.

Combine using a conjunction:

- 1. Nash had a brilliant mind. He was tortured by self-doubt.
- 2. The restrictions on trade for Cuba should be re-examined. They are longer meaningful in a post-Cold War world.
- 3. Many accidents have occurred while drivers were speaking on cell phones. Some municipal governments have passed laws against their use.
- 4. Some believe the Institute should be held accountable for the suicides of its students. Others disagree.

Example:

In subsequent years my parents would praise my drawings and poems, and supply me with books, art supplies, and sports equipment, and listen to my troubles and enthusiasms, and supervise my hours, and discuss and inform, but they would not get involved with my detective work, nor hear about my reading, nor inquire about my homework or term papers or exams, nor visit the salamanders I caught, nor listen to me play the piano, nor attend my field hockey games, nor fuss over my insect collection with me, or my poetry collection or stamp collection or rock collection. My days and my nights were my own to plan and fill. (Annie Dillard, “Handed My Own Life.”)

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21G.222 Expository Writing for Bilingual Students  
Fall 2002

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.