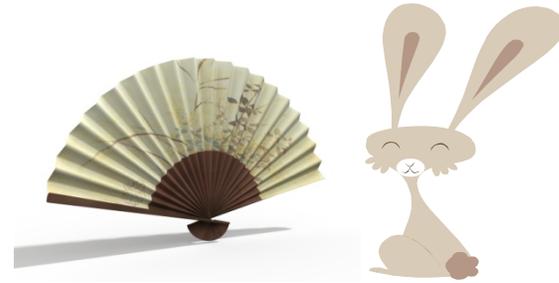


Notice the Comma Placement

1. Jessica left the deserted station and headed for the next stop.
2. Daniel is excited, and Jonathan is absolutely beside himself.
3. Jana pushed through the jungle when her plane crashed.
4. When the car started, Suzan put on her seatbelt.
5. Before you answer this question, you should consider the consequences.
6. Maybe Patricia will stop here before she leaves for Paris.
7. Because most of the contributions were made this month, the organization is able to pay the rent.
8. The system is not perfect because some are left out.
9. Parents must plan for several years, or a child's adoption will be chaotic.
10. Leigh Ann can take the money or risk everything on the next question.



Fanboys and Wabbits



The *fanboys* and the *wabbits* are all conjunctions that are used to connect ideas in a sentence.

Fanboys are *coordinating conjunctions* that connect equally important ideas. The prefix “co” in coordinating conjunctions suggests that the two parts are equally important just like the co-captains of a team are.

Wabbits are *subordinating conjunctions* that connect two ideas of unequal importance. The prefix “sub” in subordinating conjunctions suggests that one idea is below another in importance, just like a submarine or a subway is below the surface.

The fanboys operate under two basic rules: **(1)** when the fanboys connect two ideas that could each be a sentence on its own, then we put a comma in front of the fanboys, and **(2)** when the fanboys do *not* connect two ideas that could each be a sentence, then we do *not* put a comma in front of the fanboys.

The wabbits also operate under two rules, but the two rules are quite different from the above. **(1)** When the wabbits begin a sentence, then a comma is placed in the middle of the sentence, and **(2)** when the

wabbits are in the middle of the sentence, then a comma is *not* placed in front of the wabbits.

The FANBOYS

The **fanboys** consist of seven words: **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.**

Using these seven words in a sentence can connect independent clauses that could each be a sentence on its own. With fanboys, the writer can show readers how the ideas in the two clauses relate to one another.

For: Fran prefers to drive in the country, **for** there is often less traffic.

And: Abby eats hamburgers, **and** she also enjoys milkshakes.

Nor: Nelly doesn't like red shoes, **nor** does she like violet blouses.

But: Betty ran to the grocery, **but** it had closed at six o'clock.

Or: Otto will eat lunch on campus, **or** he will skip eating to study.

Yet: Yeshua knows class starts at nine, **yet** he frequently arrives late.

So: Sally hates to be late for class, **so** she always leaves home at eight.

Note well: *A comma always comes before the fanboys when they introduce an independent clause or a complete thought. However, if the fanboys in a sentence do NOT connect two complete ideas, then we do NOT use a comma in front of them.*

For: Frank works at UPS **for** the tuition benefits.

And: Ashley knows the way to the library **and** to the coffee shop.

Nor: Nellie likes neither chemistry **nor** English.

But: Brad is new to the school **but** is not a freshman.

Or: Orion is determined to either be a teacher **or** a nurse.

Yet: Yeats has been here for four years **yet** still is not done.

So: Sam has tried three different majors **so** far.

The WABBITS

The **wabbits** include **when, where, while, after, although, before, because, if, though,** and **since.** These are a sample of subordinate conjunctions. For additional words, consult a grammar book.

Using subordinating conjunctions in a sentence can help the writer to connect a less important, dependent idea to a more important, independent or main idea.

When: **When** I wake up, I like to eat a bowl of Captain Crunch cereal.

After: **After** arriving at school, the challenge is finding a parking spot.

Because: **Because** it snowed last night, classes will begin an hour late.

Before: **Before** answering the question, let me check with my lawyer.

If: **If** it rains much longer, she will have to move out of the basement.

Though: **Though** she is new here, she has already made many friends.

Since: **Since** arriving in America, he has learned to speak English.

Note well: *When wabbits begin a sentence, a comma always is placed in the middle of the sentence just before the main or independent idea. However, if the wabbits is in the middle of the sentence, then the comma is not used.*

When: I like to eat a bowl of Captain Crunch cereal **when** I wake up.

After: The challenge is finding a parking spot **after** arriving at school.

Because: Classes will begin an hour late **because** it snowed last night.

Before: Let me check with my lawyer **before** answering the question.

If: She will have to move out of the basement **if** it rains much longer.

Though: She has already made many friends **though** she is new here.

Since: He has learned to speak English **since** arriving in America.