

Term: “Compound Sentences”

Definition:

A compound sentence contains two independent clauses joined by a coordinator (or conjunction). The coordinators are as follows: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. (Helpful hint: The first letter of each of the coordinators spells FANBOYS.)

Two independent clauses are combined using a comma and a conjunction - this is the rule for compound sentences.

- A. I tried to speak Spanish, and my friend tried to speak English.
- B. Alejandro played football, so Maria went shopping.
- C. Alejandro played football, for Maria went shopping.

ANALYSIS: Note how the conscious use of coordinators can change the relationship between the clauses. Sentences B and C, for example, are identical except for the coordinators. In sentence B, which action occurred first? Obviously, "Alejandro played football" first, and as a consequence, "Maria went shopping." In sentence C, "Maria went shopping" first. In sentence C, "Alejandro played football" because, possibly, he didn't have anything else to do, for or because "Maria went shopping."