Joining Sentences with Coordinating Conjunctions

One way to join sentences that are logically related is to use coordinating conjunctions. In this unit, you will practice using the seven coordinators: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. The easiest way to remember them is to remember the acronym FANBOYS. In the examples below, notice the logical relationships that the coordinators create:

Coordinators		*Relationships*
For:	Susan enjoys English, for it is challenging.	effect/cause
And:	Jeffrey has won several trophies, and she is an honor student.	addition
Nor:	Joel doesn't work, nor does he want a job.	addition of negatives
But:	Maria is pretty good at gymnastics, but she prefers dance.	contrast
Or:	Aafreen needs a vacation, or he'll go crazy.	alternative
Yet:	Ryan doesn't earn much, yet he spends money like a millionaire.	contrast
So:	Coach Jessica praised the team excessively, so the players stopped believing her.	cause/effect

Punctuation: When coordinators join sentences, commas come before the coordinators: *sentence + comma + coordinator + sentence.*

Exercise 1

Directions: Join the following sets of sentences by using the coordinating conjunctions previously discussed. The logical relationships are given in brackets to the right of each sentence.

Example: Most people want to take a European vacation.
They can't afford one.   *[contrast]*

Solution: Most people want to take a European vacation, but they can't afford one.

1. Valerie and Daniel found an old, inexpensive house they could afford.
   They bought it.   *[cause/effect]*

2. She wanted a new house.
   New houses were too costly.   *[contrast]*

3. Valerie and Daniel applied for a loan to fix up the dilapidated building.
   The lender approved it.   *[addition]*

4. They replaced the old bathtub in the upstairs bathroom.
   The new bathtub fell through the rotted floor into the bedroom below.   *[contrast]*

5. They were not pleased to find a wasp's nest in the attic.
   They were not happy to find roaches in the walls.   *[addition of negatives]*

6. The structure was in danger of collapsing any day.
   The ferocious termites had devoured most of the foundation.   *[effect/cause]*

7. Valerie and Daniel decided they should elevate the house to
   replace the foundation.
   Their house would be a loss.   *[alternative]*

8. A general contractor had to work on the foundation.
   He lifted the house very carefully with hydraulic jacks.   *[cause/effect]*

9. The contractor and his crew completed the foundation.
   The roof imploded.   *[contrast]*

10. Valerie and Daniel now enjoy living in the backyard shed.
    It's a lot safer than living in the house.   *[effect/cause]*

Exercise 2

Directions: Join the following sets of sentences by using the coordinating conjunctions. Choose the coordinator that best shows the logical relationship between the sentences.

   Example: Kaitlin decided to buy a new vehicle.
               She didn't know much about cars.

   Solution: Kaitlin decided to buy a new vehicle, <u>but</u> (or <u>yet</u>)
               she didn't know much about cars.

1. She wanted to be an informed shopper.
   She began to research various resources.

2. She purchased multiple auto magazines.
   She looked at statistics on car crash tests.

3. She didn't consider SUVs.
   She needed to save money on gas.

4. Kaitlin really liked sports cars.
   The insurance rates on these vehicles were ridiculous.

5. The most affordable car for Kaitlin was Mazzer's compact sedan.
   The car's crash test performance was rated "Poor."

6. An expensive, imported van was rated favorably in crash tests.
   It provided anti-lock brakes and a heavy steel protective body.

7. Kaitlin needed to test-drive several cars.
   She wouldn't know if they would meet all her needs.

8. The ICON dealer did not treat Kaitlin nicely.
   The overpriced ICON cars didn't impress her.