46. COMMON PROBLEMS WHEN USING COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Coordinating conjunctions connect two sentences.

- There are seven subordinating conjunctions: *and, but, or, so, yet, for, nor*.
- Coordination is a useful technique, but it can be misused.

Two common problems are:

- Overusing the conjunction *AND* (when another conjunction would communicate a more specific meaning).
- Starting a sentence in a college paper with a coordinating conjunction (which is too informal).

EXAMPLES	REMEMBER

Overusing the conjunction *AND*
 	
Incorrect: *The orange yield increased, <u>and</u> the oranges weren't as sweet as they used to be.*
Correct: *The orange yield increased, <u>but</u> the oranges weren't as sweet as they used to be.*
 	
Incorrect: *The orange farmers wanted to get a better yield, <u>and</u> they used fertilizer.*
Correct: *The orange farmers wanted to get a better yield, <u>so</u> they used fertilizer.*
 	
Incorrect: *They lost some of their customers, <u>and</u> they had to stop using fertilizer.*
Correct: *They had to stop using fertilizer, <u>for</u> they had lost some of their customers.*
	Do not connect every pair of sentences with the conjunction *AND*.
	
	- Use this word only to add information.
	- Choose other words to express different relationships:
	   ❑ Use *BUT* to express a contrast.
	   ❑ Use *SO* to express a result.
	   ❑ Use *FOR* to express a cause.

Starting a sentence with a coordinating conjunction in a college paper
 	
Too informal: *The orange farmers wanted to get a better yield. <u>So</u> they used fertilizer. The orange yield increased. <u>But</u> the oranges weren't as sweet as they used to be. <u>So</u>, they stopped using fertilizer.*
 	
Formal / academic: *The orange farmers wanted to get a better yiel<u>d, so</u> they used fertilizer. The orange yield increased. <u>However</u>, the oranges were not as sweet as they used to be. <u>Consequently</u>, the farmers stopped using fertilizer.*
	Avoid starting sentences in a college paper with a coordinating conjunction.
	
	- Use the coordinating conjunctions in the middle of sentences.
	     OR
	- Use transition words instead at the beginning of sentences:
	   ❑ Instead of *AND*, use *IN ADDITION*.
	   ❑ Instead of *BUT*, use *HOWEVER*.
	   ❑ Instead of *SO*, use *CONSEQUENTLY* or *AS A RESULT*.