CONJUNCTIONS & PARALLEL STRUCTURE

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS (FANBOYS)

For
And
Nor
But
Or
Yet
So

Coordinating conjunctions simply show that two things deserve equal attention.

BASIC RULES

1. When a comma is used, it always comes before the FANBOY.
2. Compound sentences may be connected with a comma and a FANBOY.
   Bill went to Wal-Mart, and Jane went home.
3. A comma is necessary when using "and" to connect a list of items.
   I like to shop at Wal-Mart, Hobby Lobby, and J.C. Penney
4. Otherwise, no comma is needed.
   Bill and Jane went to the store.

Words or groups of words linked together with a coordinating conjunction are often doing the same job and need to be parallel.

1. (Nouns) Paul and Diane went to the Sky concert.
2. (Past tense verbs) Cindy learned Spanish and practiced speaking it.
3. (Article + adjective + noun) Bridget bought a blue sweater, a cowboy hat, and a popular novel.
4. (Two gerund phrases) Neither opening the window morning off the heat will cool off his classroom.

All clauses in the same sentence should be consistently active or passive voice.

POOR: Lay took a picture of his sister, and then his mother was photographed by him.

BETTER: Lay took a picture of his sister, and then he photographed his mother.

BETTER: Lay took a picture of his sister and then photogr aphed his mother.