

Exercise for Commas in Compound Sentences with Coordinating Conjunctions

Directions: In numbers 1-7, write the coordinating conjunctions. In numbers 8-20, read each sentence carefully and find the conjunction. If it is a true compound sentence with a coordinating conjunction, place the comma correctly. If it is not a compound sentence, leave the comma out.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8. I love to play the tuba and will enter the Oompah Contest next week.

9. Seymour fed the dogs but he forgot to tell his mom.

10. Doctors study ethics for they make many life-and-death decisions every day.

11. Jason doesn't know if he will write a letter of complaint to the NFL about the godaddy.com

commercials or e-mail a short note.

12. He fixed a peanut butter sandwich for me so I wouldn't faint during my comma quiz.

13. The costume designer shopped all day yet did not find the right material for Anna's and Elsa's dresses.

14. Jeremy loves to read *The Three Musketeers* but he refuses to watch the movies.

15. Johnny Depp bought a private island for his family in 2004 because he wanted them to have a safe haven.

16. I quit gardening for I couldn't stand the worms and fat grubs.

17. I quit gardening because I couldn't stand the worms and fat grubs.

18. The soles on my new sneakers are flapping so I bought a new pair.

19. Write your essay this week and hand it in by Friday.

20. *Castaway* uses no music while the main character Chuck Noland is deserted on the island and I didn't even notice!

ANSWERS:

Each correct answer is worth 5 points.

1. But
2. Or
3. Yet
4. For
5. And
6. Nor
7. So

These can be in any order.

8. I love to play the tuba and will enter the Oompah Contest next week. *No comma needed. "And" is joining two verbs ("play" and "will enter").*
9. Seymour fed the dogs, but he forgot to tell his mom.
10. Doctors study ethics, for they make many life-and-death decisions every day.
11. Jason doesn't know if he will write a letter of complaint to the NFL about the godaddy.com commercials or e-mail a short note. *No comma needed. "Or" is joining two predicates ("will write" and "e-mail").*
12. He fixed a peanut butter sandwich for me so I wouldn't faint during my comma quiz. *No comma needed. A silent "that" can be added after "so."*
13. The costume designer shopped all day yet did not find the right material for Anna's and Elsa's dresses. *No comma needed. "Yet" is joining two predicates ("shopped" and "did not find").*
14. Jeremy loves to read *The Three Musketeers*, but he refuses to watch the movies.
15. Johnny Depp bought a private island for his family in 2004 because he wanted them to have a safe haven. *No comma needed. "Because" is not a coordinating conjunction; it is a subordinating conjunction.*
16. I quit gardening, for I couldn't stand the worms and fat grubs.
17. I quit gardening because I couldn't stand the worms and fat grubs. *No comma needed. "Because" is not a coordinating conjunction.*
18. The soles on my new sneakers are flapping, so I bought a new pair.
19. Write your essay this week and hand it in by Friday. *No comma needed. In this imperative sentence, the coordinating conjunction "and" is joining two verbs ("write" and "hand").*
20. *Castaway* uses no music while the main character Chuck Noland is deserted on the island, and I didn't even notice!