

Most students try to combine trunks because, except for the very young, that's how they think. The problem is that they often don't know yet what a good trunk is or how to punctuate a sentence of two or more trunks.

This lesson works with the FANBOYS - an acronym for the coordinating conjunctions *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*. The lesson focuses on *and, but, or, so* because they are by far the most common. The original lesson by Jim Lydon called these "equal words" because they can join equal structures (two subjects, two verbs, two gerunds, and so forth) I prefer that term, but went with FANBOYS since that's more popular with X-Word teachers.

### Joining Trunks

#### Review What is a trunk?

With a good trunk, you can make a yes/no question without any missing words or extra words.

Review testing trunks with Yes/No Questions to eliminate

- trunks without subjects or verbs and
- clauses masquerading as trunks.

Examples:

I like her because is smart. [missing SUBJECT]  
Do I like her because **SHE** is smart?

I like her because she smart. [missing VERB]  
Do I like her because she **IS** smart?

I like her. Because she is smart. [clause—fragment]  
Do I like her? Is she smart? **because**

Review punctuation and eliminate repeated words.

In my classes, there are only two things that give students trouble (assuming they can produce and test a good TRUNK). Here they are in a nutshell.

- 1 Question: Is there a comma between the two parts or not?  
Answer: If the second part has a SUBJECT (including pronouns), use a comma before the FANBOYS.

2 Question: What words can we leave out?

Answer: if a word in the second trunk is exactly the same AND in the same slot as a word in the first trunk, you can leave it out or substitute a pronoun.

Here is an explanation from the Quiz 21 answer key.

Do you remember the saying "English doesn't like doubles"?

In this exercise, we leave out words in the second sentence if they repeat words in the first sentence. Here's an example.

Omit the words that are doubles to get the most natural sounding sentence.

FANBOYS	X-Word	Subject	Verb	what	where
	do	you	want	to go	to the party
or	<del>do</del>	<del>you</del>	<del>want</del>	<del>to</del> stay	home

So all of these sentences are correct, but the last is the most natural sounding.

Do you want to go to the party? Do you want to stay home?

Do you want to go to the party, or do you want to stay home?

Do you want to go to the party or to stay home?

Do you want to go to the party or stay home?

### More practice

Linda Kunz would start her classes with this dictation. Then she would do variations: About me, About a classmate (male), About a classmate (female), past tense, etc. One of the exercises has student combine sentences. (used with permission)

#### About Youngmi Kim

<sup>1</sup> Her name is Youngmi Kim. <sup>2</sup> She is from South Korea. <sup>3</sup> She speaks Korean and a little English. <sup>4</sup> She is single. <sup>5</sup> She has a boyfriend. <sup>6</sup> She lives with her friend Hanna in New Jersey. <sup>7</sup> She came to New York in January, 2016. <sup>8</sup> Youngmi needs better English to go on to college. <sup>9</sup> She never misses her English class.

**Directions:** copy the paragraph over. Connect sentence 2 and sentence 3 with "and." Connect sentence 4 and sentence 5 with "but." Connect sentence 8 and 9 with "so." Be careful to change punctuation if needed. You decide with extra words to delete.

**About Youngmi Kim**

Her name is Youngmi Kim. She is from South Korea and speaks Korean and a little English. She is single, but she has a boyfriend.<sup>6</sup> She lives with her friend Hanna in New Jersey. She came to New York in January, 2016. Youngmi needs better English to go on to college, so she never misses her English class.

***for, yet, nor***

This lesson only looks at *and, but, so, or* since they are by far the most common. There are brief mentions of the other in the lesson. Basically, when used to join trunks, ***for*** means *because*; and ***yet*** means *but*. *Nor* is quite strange with its question order. There is a short explanation in the lesson.