

## Connecting Independent clauses

First we need to know what an 'independent clause' is. Just think of it being a group of words that can stand on its own as a sentence: it has a subject, a verb, and is a complete thought.

There are two types of words that can be used as connectors at the beginning of an independent clause. The most important are the coordinating conjunctions:

**and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet.**

When the second independent clause in a sentence begins with one of these words, a comma is needed before the coordinating conjunction:

*Rosy studied for her English test at the library, **but** it was hard to concentrate because of the noise.*

Choose the correct conjunction to complete the following sentences. Often there can be more than one choice depending on the idea you want to get across:

1. I did my best to pass my English exam ..... I failed.
2. I will get my car serviced ..... I will have to take the bus.
3. Nobody expected Sam to get the job ..... did I.
4. We can go to a Chinese ..... a Mexican restaurant, I don't really mind.
5. It was raining heavily ..... we decided to stay at home.
6. Everybody in the office was keen to participate in the charity walk ..... the manager wasn't.
7. I got a seat in the front row at the cinema..... I fell asleep as I wasn't really interested in the film.
8. My husband ..... I will retire soon and go sailing around the world.
9. He can speak English ..... Spanish fluently, ..... his French is not so good.
10. Felipe won a bottle of wine at work ... he shared it with everyone.