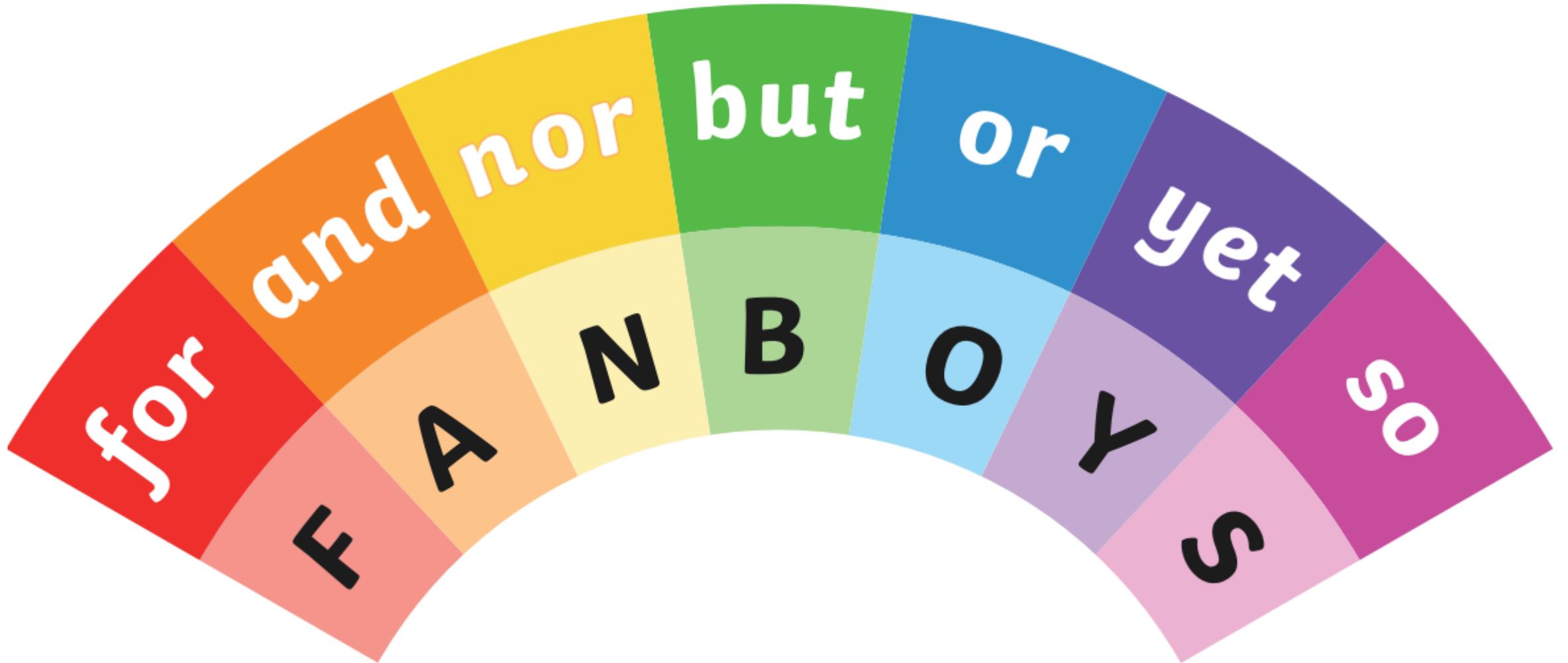


# Co-ordinating Conjunctions

There are seven co-ordinating conjunctions.  
They give equal importance to the words or sentences they connect.



# Co-ordinating Conjunctions: The Rules

Conjunctions are words that **link together clauses**. There are **two** types of conjunctions.

**Co-ordinating conjunctions** link **main clauses** together to form **compound sentences**  
e.g.

The sun was scorching. We wore our hats.



The sun was scorching **so** we wore our hats.



# Co-ordinating Conjunctions: The Rules

I love to read fiction books **for** I like a good story.

The dog jumped up **and** he began to bark.

I don't like sprouts **nor** do I like carrots.

My brother wants a dog **but** I'd prefer a cat.

I might order a pizza **or** I might get a burger.

Joey ran as fast as he could **yet** Jill won the race.

I saw a massive spider **so** I hurtled out of the room.

## Commas and coordinating conjunctions

Commas appear before coordinating conjunctions in two different circumstances: when the coordinating conjunction joins two independent clauses to form a compound sentence and when it joins more than two elements in a series.

### In compound sentences

Most of the time, when a coordinating conjunction connects two independent clauses to create a compound sentence, a comma appears before the conjunction.

*I haven't been to the supermarket yet this week, but I plan to go today.*

However, it's generally considered OK to omit the comma when the two independent clauses are short and the coordinating conjunction is *and*.

*I was hot and I was thirsty.*

## In lists

When *and* is used between the last two elements in a series of three or more things, the question of whether to use a comma before it is a matter of publishing style or individual preference. This comma is called the [Oxford or serial comma](#). Both example sentences below are grammatically correct, but the first uses the Oxford comma and the second does not.

*Let's get ready for school, eat some breakfast, **and** watch television.*

*Let's get ready for school, eat some breakfast **and** watch television.*

Year 6 must not use the Oxford/serial comma it will be marked incorrect in the GPS test.