

## GRAMMAR FOCUS

By using coordination, a writer gives equal importance to two or more ideas within a sentence. Coordinating conjunctions are used to join two or more similar grammatical structures such as words, phrases, or clauses. Different coordinating conjunctions show the relationship between the parts of a sentence. In the following example, notice how the conjunction *but* joins two independent clauses and at the same time shows the contrast between them.

*Engineers need excellent math skills, **but** they need good verbal skills, too.*

Parallel structure means that the words, phrases, or clauses that are joined by coordinating conjunctions are the same grammatical structure. The following example uses the coordinating conjunction *and* to join the three parallel adjectives.

*Undergraduate engineering majors must demonstrate their excellent math, verbal, and writing skills during interviews for professional positions.*

This chapter will help you select the appropriate coordinating conjunction for the meaning you wish to convey, place the conjunction within the sentence correctly, and use parallel structure.

### Pretest

*Check your understanding of coordination and parallel structure. Put a check (✓) next to the sentences that are correct.*

- 1. The reading passage discusses the American value of independence, it also points out other common values.
- 2. Racism results in hatred, fear, and unfair.
- 3. The business world provides financial rewards, and people tend to pursue these rather than the emotional rewards of friends and family.
- 4. Simon loves English literature, but he wants to take three English classes next semester.
- 5. Not only smoking damages your lungs, but it also decreases bone density.
- 6. People make promises, yet the promises are not always kept.
- 7. People should eat a lot of beans and grains, for their health benefits are well known.
- 8. Seema cancelled her trip to India she will go next year instead.
- 9. The music industry decreased its sales of CDs, increased its digital sales, and broadened its services in the past decade.
- 10. Hasad neither talks to his parents nor his siblings every day.