FANBOYS are joiners!

They are also referred to as conjunctions.

- F = For
- A = And
- N = Nor
- B = But
- O = Or
- Y = Yet
- S = So

If you use one of these words to connect two complete sentences, you must use a comma. The comma goes between the end of the first complete “sentence” and the conjunction. When you use a conjunction to connect two complete “sentences,” the comma is a coordinating conjunction.

Example A: I love cupcakes, but I prefer them without sprinkles.

“I love cupcakes” and “I prefer them without sprinkles” can be complete sentences (independent clauses) because they express complete thoughts. Therefore, they can be connected with a comma and a conjunction (“but”).

**WARNING:** FANBOYS words are conjunctions, but they are not always coordinating conjunctions, which require a comma!

Example B: I love cupcakes and cookies.

“I love cupcakes” can be a complete sentence, but “cookies” is not a complete thought. Therefore, there is no comma before the conjunction.