Coordinating Conjunctions *(Introduction)*

A coordinating conjunction is a word that joins, compares, or contrasts two similar elements.

Examples of conjunctions joining two similar elements:
Color Coding: conjunctions in blue / similar elements in light grey

Fall days can be cool **and** dry.
    (cool + dry - adjective + adjective)

On the airplane, they serve both tea **and** coffee.
    (tea + coffee - noun + noun)

You should be able to get in **and** out of the bank in about ten minutes.
    (in + out - prepositions)

Jan always brings his lunch to work early in the week **but** never on Fridays.
    (always + never - adverbs of time)

We're going to paint the room either tan **or** sage.
    (tan + sage - color names)

Conjunctions can join two sentences:

I'm staying home **and** you are taking the children to the park.

She works at Siemens **but** her husband works for a local firm.

We can go to the street fair **or** we can have beer with the neighbors.

GERMAN

und: *and* (shows an equivalent)

Ich esse Käse **und** Brot. - I'm eating cheese **and** bread.

Wir schreiben **und** lesen Deutsch. - We're writing **and** reading German.

Im Herbst ist das Wetter oft warm **und** kühl. - In the fall, the weather is often warm **and** cool.

aber: *however, but* (shows a contrast)

Das ist schwierig **aber** interessant. - That's difficult **but** interesting.

Sie spricht Norwegisch **aber** kein Schwedisch. - She speaks Norwegian **however** no Swedish.

Ich gehe gern **aber** selten ins Kino. - I like going to the movies, **however**, I don't go very often.
(I go gladly **however** seldom to the movies.)

oder: *or* (indicates an opposite, a choice between two selections, or a strong contrast)

Möchtest du Tee **oder** Wasser? - Would you like tea **or** water?

Kommst du mit **oder** nicht? - Are you coming along **or** not?

Ist er schön **oder** hässlich? - Is he attractive **or** ugly?

WORD ORDER - COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

When joining two sentences, German coordinating conjunctions float in a cloud between the two sentences and do not participate as any element when counting word order.

Schematic:

| Vorfeld | VB | Satzfeld | VB | , | Coord Conj | Vorfeld | VB | Satzfeld | VB | . |

Example Sentences:

Ich will heute Nachmittag zum Bäcker gehen, **aber** du möchtest zu Hause bleiben.
(I want to go to the bakery this afternoon, but you want to stay home.)

Wir können am Wochenende die Wohnung putzen, **oder** wir können einfach faulenzen.
(We can clean the appartment on the weekend, or we can simply laze around.)

Ich muss zur Bibliothek gehen, **und** ich muss auch zur Bank gehen.
(I need to go to the library, and I also need to go to the bank.)

Other Coordinating Conjunctions:

denn: for it so happens that ...

sondern: ... it's not this, rather it is ....