Using Coordinating Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions connect two or more ideas of equal importance. There are only seven: **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so**. Some instructors call these the **fanboys** because the first letters of the words spell **fanboy**. Coordinating conjunctions show the following relationships between words, phrases, and clauses:

1. **Add another idea:** Use **and**.
   
   “First Harriet cooked the noodles, and then she added the tomato sauce.”

2. **Show cause and effect:** Use **for** to introduce a reason.
   
   Use **so** to introduce a consequence.
   
   “My niece opened her own bank account, for she wanted to save for college.”
   
   “John grew up in the city, so he understood the bus system very well.”

3. **Introduce a negative idea:** Use **nor**.
   
   “Suzy had never seen such a large bug before, nor did she ever want to see another that big again.”

4. **Show contrast:** Use **but** or **yet**:
   
   “The little girl wanted a new video game for her birthday, but she got new shoes and socks instead.”
   
   “The young man wanted to buy a faster car, yet he loved his old, dependable one.”

5. **Show choice:** Use **or**:
   
   “Ben will learn to listen to me, or he will suffer the consequences.”

Directions: Fill in the coordinating conjunction that best shows the relationship of the ideas in each sentence. Use a comma where necessary.

1. My mother makes fabulous potato soup ________ my friends come over whenever she makes it.
2. Dan walked to the bus stop ________ then he realized he had forgotten his homework.
3. Camille can afford the pleasure of buying stylish jewelry ________ her boyfriend pays for it.
4. The day felt incredibly long ________ I had the hope of getting off work early.
5. Jane never turns in an assignment late ________ she ever late for class.
6. The views in Hawaii were amazing ________ we took hundreds of pictures.
7. My doctor told me I needed to go on a diet ________ I will risk having health problems.
8. The singer finished the song on a powerful crescendo ________ the audience applauded enthusiastically.
9. The baseball game was scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m. ________ the fans were lined up for blocks by early afternoon.
10. She hated get up in the morning ________ she couldn’t afford to be late at work again.
11. Tina likes to eat chocolate bonbons ________ she also likes to drink fine wines.
12. I’m really tired right now ________ I’ll go home and take a long nap.