

As most of us are aware, *but* establishes *contrast*.

Let's look at an example:

*Rainfall is good for agriculture, but can result in floods.*

The above sentence *correctly* uses *but* to establish two *contrasting* attributes of rainfall: While rainfall is *beneficial* (since it's good for agriculture), it also has a *negative* effect (that it can result in floods).

However, how about the following sentence:

*Rainfall provides water for agriculture, but yields valuable potable water.*

The above sentence *incorrectly* uses *but*, because the two attributes of rainfall mentioned in the sentence are *not* contrasting. In fact, both the attributes listed in the sentence *reinforce* the *positive* effects of rainfall. When the intended meaning of the sentence is to *reinforce* two *similar* attributes, then the correct usage is *not only X but also Y*. So, the correct sentence would be:

*Rainfall not only provides water for agriculture, but also yields valuable potable water.*