

ONLY

meaning
but or except

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ONLY + clause/adjective

used to show what is the single or main reason why something mentioned in the first part of the sentence cannot be done or is not completely true or correct:

- . Her car is like mine, **only** it has four doors.
(= except that it has four doors.)
- . I'd invite Mary to the party, **only** (= but I will not because) I don't want her husband to come.
- . I'd call him myself, **only** (= but I cannot because) I'm at work all day.
- . I'd be happy to do it for you, **only** (= but) don't expect it to be done before next week.
- . I'd offer to help, **only** (= but I cannot because) I'm really busy just now.
- . This fabric is similar to wool, **only** (= except that it is) cheaper.
- . Fiction is like real life, **only** (= but) better.
- . Your essay was good, **only** too long.
(= except that it was too long.)