Essential Grammars
Linkers

Linking Words

Linking words or **linking** expressions (sometimes also called connecting **words**) are simply **words** and expressions that tie whole sentences, parts of sentences, phrases, or individual elements together to establish a smooth transition in a text.

1. Adding information:

conjunctions: *and, as well as*
adverbials: *also, anyway, besides, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly*

We use these expressions to give additional information:
*Fish supplies as with substances that might protect against heart disease. **Moreover**, in many cultures fish is known as a 'brain food'.*

2. Sequencing

adverbials: *first, next, after that, then; firstly, secondly, finally*
***Firstly*, *secondly* and *finally* are used to order points in an argument:**

Firstly, *in terms of heart disease, it has been shown that consuming even small quantities of fish can lower your risk of heart disease by 17%.* ***Secondly***, *consuming fish is known to have a beneficial effect on brain development.* ***Finally***, *...*

***First*, *next*, *after that* and *then* describe the order of activities in a process:**
First *the fruit is picked by hand.* ***Then*** *it is transported to the factory.*

3) Cause, reason, result

conjunctions: *because, so*
adverbials: *therefore, consequently, so, thus, as a result*
prepositions: *because of, due to, on account of, owing to*

Because introduces the reason for something, and *so* introduces the result:
*I eat fish three times a week **because** it protects against heart disease. (reason)*
*Fish protects against heart disease **so** I eat it three times a week. (result)*

Therefore, consequently, so, thus, and *as a result* introduce the result of a situation or action:
***As a result**, people are 'unsure whether to increase or decrease the amount of fish they eat.*

We use *because of, due to, on account of* and *owing to* to introduce the reason for something:
*The match was cancelled **because of** the snow.*
*The buses were all running late **owing to** the bad weather.*