

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 us 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.*

Listing

firstly, secondly, thirdly
first, furthermore, finally
to begin, to conclude
next

Reinforcement

also
furthermore
moreover
what is more
in addition
besides
above all
as well (as)
in the same way
not only ... but also

Similarity

equally
likewise
similarly
correspondingly

Giving examples

for example
for instance
as follows:
that is
in this case
namely
in other words
Result/consequence
so
therefore
as a result/consequence
accordingly
consequently
because of this/that
thus
hence
for this/that reason
so that
in that case
under these circumstances

Generalising

in general
generally
on the whole
as a rule
for the most part
in most cases
usually

Highlighting

in particular
particularly
especially
mainly

Reformulation

in other words
rather
to put it more simply

Expressing an alternative

alternatively
rather
on the other hand

in the same way

Transition to new point

now,

as far as x is concerned
with regard/reference to

as for ...

it follows that

turning to

Summary

in conclusion

to conclude

in brief

to summarise

overall

therefore

Deduction

then

in other words

in that case

otherwise

this implies that ...

if so/not

Stating the obvious

obviously

clearly

naturally

of course

as can be expected

surely

after all

the alternative is

another possibility would be

Contrast

instead

conversely

on the contrary

in contrast

in comparison

Concession (smth unexpected)

even though

however

however much

nevertheless

still

yet

Acti
Go to