

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	Giving examples	Generalising
firstly, secondly, thirdly	for example	in general
first, furthermore, finally	for instance	generally
to begin, to conclude	as follows:	on the whole
next	that is	as a rule
Reinforcement	in this case	for the most part
also	namely	in most cases
furthermore	in other words	usually
moreover	Result/consequence	Highlighting
what is more	so	in particular
in addition	therefore	particularly
besides	as a result/consequence	especially
above all	accordingly	mainly
as well (as)	consequently	Reformulation
in the same way	because of this/that	in other words
not only ... but also	thus	rather
Similarity	hence	to put it more simply
equally	for this/that reason	Expressing an alternative
likewise	so that	alternatively
similarly	in that case	rather
correspondingly	under these circumstances	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

Activ
Go to