

LINKING WORDS

linking word - связывающее слово; слово-связка

A linking word is a word which shows a connection between clauses or sentences. 'However', 'the former', and 'so' are linking words. (in BRIT, also use link word)

Linking words help you to connect ideas and sentences when you speak or write English. We can use linking words to give examples, add information, summarise, sequence information, give a reason or result, or to contrast ideas.

Here's a list of the most common linking words and phrases:

Giving examples

For example

For instance

Namely

The most common way to give examples is by using **for example** or **for instance**.

Namely refers to something by name.

"There are two problems: namely, the expense and the time."

Adding information

And

In addition

As well as

Also

Too

Furthermore

Moreover

Apart from

In addition to

Besides

Ideas are often linked by **and**. In a list, you put a comma between each item, but not before **and**.

"We discussed training, education and the budget."

Also is used to add an extra idea or emphasis. "We also spoke about marketing."

You can use **also** with **not only** to give emphasis.

"We are concerned not only by the costs, but also by the competition."

We don't usually start a sentence with **also**. If you want to start a sentence with a phrase that means also, you can use **In addition**, or **In addition to this...**

As well as can be used at the beginning or the middle of a sentence.

"As well as the costs, we are concerned by the competition."

"We are interested in costs as well as the competition."

Too goes either at the end of the sentence, or after the subject and means **as well**.

"They were concerned too."

"I, too, was concerned."

Apart from and **besides** are often used to mean **as well as**, or **in addition to**.

"Apart from Rover, we are the largest sports car manufacturer."

"Besides Rover, we are the largest sports car manufacturer."

Moreover and **furthermore** add extra information to the point you are making.

"Marketing plans give us an idea of the potential market. Moreover, they tell us about the competition."

Summarising

In short

In brief

In summary

To summarise

In a nutshell

To conclude

In conclusion

We normally use these words at the beginning of the sentence to give a summary of what we have said or written.

Sequencing ideas

The former, ... the latter

Firstly, secondly, finally

The first point is

Lastly

The following

The former and **the latter** are useful when you want to refer to one of two points.

"Marketing and finance are both covered in the course. The former is studied in the first term and the latter is studied in the final term."

Firstly, ... secondly, ... finally (or **lastly**) are useful ways to list ideas.

It's rare to use "fourthly", or "fifthly". Instead, try **the first point, the second point, the third point** and so on.

The following is a good way of starting a list.

"The following people have been chosen to go on the training course: N Peters, C Jones and A Owen."

Giving a reason

Due to / due to the fact that

Owing to / owing to the fact that

Because

Because of

Since

As

Due to and **owing to** must be followed by a noun.

"Due to the rise in oil prices, the inflation rate rose by 1.25%."

"Owing to the demand, we are unable to supply all items within 2 weeks."

If you want to follow these words with a clause (a subject, verb and object), you must follow the words with **the fact that**.

"Due to the fact that oil prices have risen, the inflation rate has gone up by 1%25."

"Owing to the fact that the workers have gone on strike, the company has been unable to fulfill all its orders."

Because / because of

Because of is followed by a noun.

"Because of bad weather, the football match was postponed."

Because can be used at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. For example, "Because it was raining, the match was postponed."

"We believe in incentive schemes, because we want our employees to be more productive."

Since / as

Since and **as** mean **because**.

"Since the company is expanding, we need to hire more staff."

As the company is expanding, we need to hire more staff."

Giving a result

Therefore

So

Consequently

This means that

As a result

Therefore, so, consequently and **as a result** are all used in a similar way.

"The company are expanding. Therefore / So / Consequently / As a result, they are taking on extra staff."

So is more informal.

Contrasting ideas

But

However

Although / even though

Despite / despite the fact that

In spite of / in spite of the fact that

Nevertheless

Nonetheless

While

Whereas

Unlike

In theory... in practice...

But is more informal than **however**. It is not normally used at the beginning of a sentence.

"He works hard, but he doesn't earn much."

"He works hard. However, he doesn't earn much."

Although, despite and **in spite of** introduce an idea of contrast. With these words, you must have two halves of a sentence.

"Although it was cold, she went out in shorts."

"In spite of the cold, she went out in shorts."

Despite and **in spite of** are used in the same way as **due to** and **owing to**. They must be followed by a noun. If you want to follow them with a noun and a verb, you must use **the fact that**.

"Despite the fact that the company was doing badly, they took on extra employees."

Nevertheless and **nonetheless** mean **in spite of that** or **anyway**.

"The sea was cold, but he went swimming nevertheless." (In spite of the fact that it was cold.)

"The company is doing well. Nonetheless, they aren't going to expand this year."

While, whereas and **unlike** are used to show how two things are different from each other.

"While my sister has blue eyes, mine are brown."

"Taxes have gone up, whereas social security contributions have gone down."

"Unlike in the UK, the USA has cheap petrol."

In theory... in practice... show an unexpected result.

"In theory, teachers should prepare for lessons, but in practice, they often don't have enough time."

<http://www.english-at-home.com/grammar/linking-words/>

Common linking words

Here is an overview of common linking words in English.

To give examples

To give examples we can use the following linking expressions: **for instance, for example, in particular**

People often behave stupidly when they are frightened. Take Alice, **for instance**, ...

We are not at all happy with the way you handled the situation. **In particular**, we ...

To show contrast

To show contrast you can use the following conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs: **but, however, otherwise, in contrast, on the other hand**.

Their front door was open **but** nobody was inside.

Their front door was open; **however**, nobody was inside.

The technology sector is performing badly. The banking stocks, **in / by contrast**, are doing well again.

Sam was quite rude. His brother, **on the other hand**, behaved very politely.

To show concession

The following conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs can be used to show concession: **however, yet, nevertheless, although, despite, even though, despite the fact that** etc.

The car broke down on the way. **Nevertheless / however**, I managed to get to the meeting in time.

Even though he has a master's degree in English, he still can't write a good letter.

To show similarity

To show similarity, you can use the following conjunctive adverbs: **likewise, similarly, in the same way**
My mother did everything she could to educate us. **In the same way**, we put a high value on our children's education.

To show result

Use the following expressions to show result: **therefore, as a result, thus, consequently, so, as a consequence**

They have recruited more people and **consequently** the service is better.

The new laptops are thin and light and **therefore** you can carry them around more comfortably.

To indicate time or sequence

A large number of expressions are used to indicate sequence. Examples are: **first, firstly, second, secondly, finally, lastly, immediately, formerly, thereafter, soon, next** etc.

<https://www.englishgrammar.org/common-linking-words/>

Linking words and phrases in English (also called 'connective' or 'transition' words) are used to combine two clauses or sentences presenting contrast, comparison, condition, supposition, purpose, etc. They enable us to establish clear connections between ideas.

Most linking words can either connect clauses within a sentence, or start a sentence to form a link with the previous statement.

◆Note : A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb.

The following sentence contains two clauses:

She lives in Mexico because **she likes the climate**.

Below you will find some examples of linking words and how to use them. This is not a comprehensive list. You may want to add your own linking words and phrases.

Examples of linking words within one sentence:

Linking Words

Example of use

As long as provided (that) providing

You can take my car **as long as/provided (that)/providing** you don't damage it.
(I will lend you my car on condition that you don't damage it.)

Although/even though

Although/even though he is rich, he lives in a small house.
(In spite of the fact that he is rich, he lives in a small house.)

Even if

He is poor and has no house, but **even if** he had money, he wouldn't buy a house.
(Supposing he had the money, he still wouldn't buy a house.)

In case

Take an umbrella **in case** it rains.
(It might rain, so it's a good idea to take an umbrella.)

In spite of / despite

In spite of/despite the rain, she walked to the station.
in spite of/despite being blind, he walked to the station.
(without being affected by the rain or by being blind.)

So that

She arrived early **so that** she could help her colleagues.
(She arrived early for the purpose of helping her colleagues.)

Whatever

You can count on me **whatever** you decide to do.
(No matter what your decision is, you can count on me.)

Whereas [*а; тогда как (со значением контраста);*

принимая во внимание;

поскольку; несмотря на то,

что; между тем как; если;

же; в то время как]

Tom is rich, **whereas** Jack is poor.
(Tom is rich; in contrast Jack is poor.)

Whenever

I will lend you my car **whenever** you need it.
(No matter when you need my car, I will lend it to you.)

Wherever

My thoughts will be with you **wherever** you go.
(No matter where you go, my thoughts will be with you.)

Examples of linking words that connect two separate sentences or two clauses:

◆Note : If linking words start a sentence, they are followed by a comma.

When they are used to connect two clauses, a semi-colon is used at the end of the first clause, and a comma is often used after the linking word(s).

Linking Words

Example of use

As a result

Prices were reduced by 20%. **As a result**, sales increased.

Consequently

The company is expanding. **Consequently**, there are jobs on offer.

Therefore

A hurricane has been announced. **Therefore**, air traffic will be disrupted.

Besides

The trip is too expensive. **Besides**, I don't really like hot weather.

Furthermore

Computers are cheaper nowadays; **furthermore**, they are lighter.

In addition

You haven't paid the rent yet. **In addition**, you owe me money.

Moreover

The report is badly presented. **Moreover**, it contains inaccuracies.

For instance

There are several problems to consider; **for instance/for example**, there is a lack of public transport.

For example

Conversely

Northern European countries had a great summer.

On the contrary

On the contrary/conversely, southern Europe had poor weather.

On the other hand

Laptops are convenient; **on the other hand**, they can be expensive

However

The hotel was open. **However**, nobody came to the reception desk.

Nevertheless

He had severe injuries; **nevertheless**, he completely recovered.

Nonetheless

The weather was bitterly cold. He went hiking **nonetheless**.

In the same way

Alex enjoys telling jokes; **in the same way/similarly/likewise**,

Likewise

his son adores funny stories.

Similarly

Teenagers should be more respectful; **by the same token**, parents should be more understanding.

By the same token [*к тому же,*

кроме того; лишнее

доказательство того, что;

справедливо и то, что]

To summarise/sum up

I've covered the main events of the year.

Briefly

To sum up/briefly, our team is now one of the best in the world.

To conclude

To conclude, I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season.

In conclusion

http://www.learn-english-today.com/lessons/lesson_contents/grammar/linking-words.html

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Linking devices

There are many ways of making links between parts of a sentence or between sentences.

1 With conjunctions:

... the future comes towards you **and** recedes behind you

This is *the* time, **since** on the first of January 1972 the second was defined as the atomic second ...

2 With adverbs:

However, roughly every year a leap second is added ...

So the timekeepers of today must tell the time ...

3 With infinitives:

... it is added to **accommodate** the earth's unreliable time ...

4 With relative pronouns:

In cities, **where** time is most chronological ...

5 With participles:

... there are clocks on corporate buildings and hotels, **blinking** the date and time ...

Find more examples in the article on p110.

▶▶ Grammar Reference p159

1 Choose the correct linker. Sometimes two are possible.

A day in the life of

Benjamin Ellis



I always wake up on the dot of six o'clock in the morning. (1) *unless/wherever/no matter where* I am in the world. I'm a morning person. (2) *so/therefore/since* I like to make the best of my creative period. (3) *As soon as/Whenever/After* I've had a shower, I take the dog out, and (4) *then/at last/finally* it's time for tea and emails. (5) *Since/As/Even though* I work at home, I get a lot of emails, and (6) *providing/if/unless* I clear them daily, they build up and up.

I work downstairs (7) *to not/in order not to/so as not to* wake up the rest of the family.

(8) *Since/In case/Once* everyone is up, we have breakfast, and (9) *after/afterwards/after that* it's the mad rush for school. (10) *Even though/Even so/Although* we ask the children every evening if they have everything for school the next day, there is always something they have forgotten. 'Where's my ...?' is the cry in our house (11) *however/as long as/whenever* a child has lost something. This is followed by the fatuous question from a parent, usually me, 'Where did you last have it?' (12) *Provided/Supposing/If* the child knew that, there wouldn't be a problem.

(13) *When/While/Whenever* everyone's ready, we all pile into the car. I like to leave early (14) *in case/unless/although* the traffic is bad. We go on country lanes (15) *to avoid/so as to avoid/because we avoid* the rush-hour, but (16) *even so/all the same/yet* the journey takes half an hour.

(17) *Immediately/Since/As soon as* I get home, it's back to the computer. (18) *Working/As I work/So that I work* at home, I know how easy it is to be distracted. (19) *As long as/Provided/Except when* I do about eight hours' work a day, I manage to keep on top. In the evening we all eat together (20) *so that/in order to/since* we can catch up with each other's news from the day.



2 Write a paragraph about a typical day in your life, using linking devices.

3 Rewrite each sentence in different ways, using the words in the box.

- 1 The bank robber wore a mask.
No one recognized him.

so that so as not to

The bank robber wore a mask so that no one recognized him.

The bank robber wore a mask so as not to be recognized.

- 2 I saw the film. Then I read the book.

having after

- 3 Look after this carefully. It will last a lifetime.

as long as provided

- 4 The curry was hot. We couldn't eat it.

so such too

- 5 It doesn't matter what you do, but don't touch this switch.

no matter whatever

- 6 Do I like her or not? I'm not sure.

whether

- 7 I'm on a strict diet. I still haven't lost any weight.

even though however even so

- 8 I took an umbrella. I thought it might rain.

in case as

- 9 He was penniless and starving, but he still shouldn't have stolen the food.

nevertheless although despite

- 10 I went to the party. I met Jenny. We got married and had three children.

Supposing I hadn't ...

4 Rewrite the biography of Salvador Dalí, using linkers to change each group of sentences into one sentence.

Salvador Dalí was born in 1904.
He was born in a small town, Figueras, in Catalunya, north-east Spain.
His father was a prestigious notary in the town.

Salvador Dalí was born in 1904 in a small town, Figueras, in Catalunya, north-east Spain, where his father was a prestigious notary.

Dalí wanted to study art.
He went to the Royal Academy of Art in Madrid.
He was expelled from the Academy twice.
He never took his final examinations.

In 1928 he went to Paris.
He met the Spanish painters Pablo Picasso and Joan Miró in Paris.
He established himself as the principal figure of a group of surrealist artists.
The leader of the group was André Breton.

By 1929 Dalí found his style.
This style would make him famous.
It consisted of the world of the unconscious.
This world is recalled during our dreams.

In 1927 he met Gala.
She was a Russian immigrant.
She was ten years older than Dalí.

She was married to a French poet at the time.
She decided to leave her husband.
She wanted to stay with Dalí.

In 1940 he went to the United States.
He stayed there for eight years.
In 1948 Dalí and Gala returned to Europe.
They spent most of their time in Spain or Paris.

Gala died in 1982.
Dalí became deeply depressed.
He moved to Púbol.
Púbol was a castle.
He had bought it for Gala.

He lived in his castle for the rest of his life.
He died there in 1989.
He died of heart failure.



1. I didn't have a shower this morning ___ my hair was really dirty all day.

whereas

because

so

2. I really love driving, ___ on sunny days.

especially

then

whereas

3. I love summer. ___, I hate getting on the underground in the heat.

Because

So

However

4. I didn't eat any crisps [чипсы] ___ I ate an icecream!

generally

but

especially

5. I saw someone applying their make-up ___ they were driving!

in conclusion

so

while

6. Emma really enjoys knitting [вязание], ___ Mary who hates it!

while

unlike

in conclusion

7. I went to the park ___ I went to the shops.

because

so

then

8. I thought the documentary was interesting. ___, I would have liked to see more interviews.

For example

Because

Nevertheless

Choose the correct word or phrase to fill the space.

1) (because / because of)

We stayed inside the storm...

2) (since / because of)

I wanted to stay longer I was really enjoying the party...

3) (as / due to)

Amamnda stayed at home her illness...

4) (due to / as)

Her lateness was a terrible traffic jam...

5) (since / owing to)

flights are cheaper in the winter, we decided to travel then...

6) (as / because of) she hated cats, she wasn't happy when her husband bought three...

7) (owing to / as)

John didn't go to work, his illness...

8) (because / due to)

Lucy was very tired, she went to bed early...

9) (because / owing to)

his late night, John missed his train...

10) (for / owing to)

Lucy was very unhappy, she missed James...

11) (as / due to)

the terrible weather, we decided not to walk home...

12) (as / owing to)

I was very happy with my present it was exactly what I wanted...

13) (due to / since)

Keiko ordered her meal without meat she is a vegetarian...

14) (because of / as)

I didn't want to leave I was having a great time...

15) (owing to / since)

Luca bought the shoes they were perfect...

16) (because of / because)

We were late for the plane the traffic...

17) (for / as)

it was really cold, I put on my gloves and my hat...

18) (due to / because)

She couldn't come she had to work...

19) (owing to / because)

its high price, we didn't rent the flat...

20) (because of / since)

his great cooking, we love going to dinner at Taka's house...

I'll keep the dictionary until tomorrow _____ you need it now.

- A. DESPITE
- B. UNLESS
- C. IN CASE
- D. PROVIDED

Dan says he won't accept the position _____ they raise the salary.

- A. ALTHOUGH
- B. DESPITE
- C. EVEN IF
- D. WHEREAS

Jack is good at sports _____ his brother is artistic.

- A. EVEN IF
- B. WHEREAS
- C. IN CASE
- D. ALTHOUGH

You can borrow my newspaper _____ you bring it back before lunch.

- A. SO THAT
- B. UNLESS
- C. EVEN THOUGH
- D. PROVIDED

_____ he is very wealthy he never gives money to charity.

- A. EVEN THOUGH
- B. DESPITE
- C. EVEN IF
- D. WHEREAS

You should take a jacket with you _____ it gets cold later.

- A. PROVIDED
- B. SO THAT
- C. IN CASE
- D. UNLESS

The match will take place tomorrow _____ it rains.

- A. IN SPITE OF
- B. EVEN THOUGH
- C. IN CASE
- D. EVEN IF

I'm going to pin the diagram onto the board _____ everyone can see it.

- A. IN CASE
- B. DESPITE
- C. SO THAT
- D. PROVIDED

1. Her salary is higher than mine _____ we do the same work.

- A. although
- B. despite
- C. however

2. It must be finished before tomorrow _____ long it takes.

- A. whatever
- B. no matter
- C. however

3. The rule applies to all employees _____ of their position.

- A. whatever
- B. irrespective
- C. inconsiderate

4. It will take place outdoors, _____ it rains or not.

- A. if
- B. in spite of
- C. whether

5. He organized the trip _____ of the danger.

- A. regardless
- B. inattentive
- C. remindless

6. You must attend the meeting _____ he'll be very annoyed.

- A. otherwise
- B. nevertheless
- C. unless

7. The country is at war. _____ it is underdeveloped.
 A Additionally
 B Furthermore
 C As well
8. Nobody was listening anymore; _____ the recital continued.
 A notwithstanding
 B regardless
 C nevertheless

Make one sentence from the two below, using the word(s) in brackets.

1. She wasn't very rich. She gave money to the poor. (**although**)
2. He left early. He wanted to arrive on time. (**so that**)
3. You can go out tonight. You must tell us where you are going. (**provided**)
4. Tom doesn't earn a big salary. But if he did, he wouldn't buy car. (**even if**)
5. Take a sandwich. There might be no restaurant there. (**in case**)
6. There was a lot of noise. Charlie managed to sleep. (**despite**)
7. Sue likes Opera. Joe prefers jazz. (**whereas**)
8. The weather was bad. They enjoyed the trip. (**even though**)
9. He had the flu. He went to work. (**in spite of**)
10. You have to put the alarm on. If not, it won't work. (**unless**)

Make the sentences using ONE of the words in brackets.

1. He had multiple injuries. He survived the accident.
(nevertheless - consequently - furthermore)
2. Mobile phones are useful. Some are complicated to use.
(furthermore - on the other hand - for instance)
3. There are several negative points. The price is too high.
(for example - therefore - likewise)
4. I requested an estimate. I received no reply.
(conversely - in addition - however)
5. Mark always argues with his family. He constantly disagrees with his colleagues.
(in addition - nonetheless - similarly)
6. The delivery arrived late. The goods were damaged.
(nevertheless - moreover - in the same way)
7. She won the competition. She was awarded the first prize.
(likewise - consequently - besides)
8. Jack loves red meat. His wife is a vegetarian.
(similarly - in addition - on the contrary)