

ESSENTIAL LINKING WORDS IN ENGLISH

1- Clauses of contrast

Linking words of contrast – we use them in a sentence in order to express a *contrast*. These are:

but,

- although/even though/though,
- in spite of/despite,
- however,
- while/whereas,
- yet,
- nevertheless,
- on the other hand.

But seems to be the most common linking word that shows contrast. Its use in a sentence is quite simple, for example:

- *Sarah wasn't happy, **but** she did not show it.*
- *We wanted to go to the museum, **but** it was closed.*

Although/Even though/Though are followed by a clause. They are used in the following ways:

- ***Although/Even though/Though** it was winter, it was quite warm.*
- *It was quite warm **although/even though/though** it was winter.*
- *It was winter. It was quite warm, **though**.*

The linking word **though** can be used at the end of a sentence.

- **In spite of/despite** is followed by a noun, or an – ing form, for instance:
- ***In spite of/Despite** his poor knowledge, he passed the final test.*
- ***In spite of/Despite** being unprepared, he passed the final test.*

It is also possible to add a clause to **despite or in spite of** by adding **the fact that** and a clause, for instance:

- *Despite/In spite of the fact that he had not learnt, he managed to pass the final test.*
- *In spite of/Despite the fact that he was shy, he chatted her up at the pub.*

Bear in mind that ‘despite of’ is a very common error that should be avoided.

However/Nevertheless are close in meaning to **but**, but they are more formal. They are always followed by a comma, for example:

Sophie has been unemployed for months, **however**, she turned down the latest job offer – it was below her expectations.

- She really wanted to see Mike, **however**, she kept up the pretence that she did not care.

While/whereas – they both mean the same when it comes to expressing contrast, for example:

- John is an intelligent guy, **whereas/while** Bob is hilarious.
- **While** Angie enjoys horse-riding, Bill likes swimming.

Please note that whereas means the same as while in showing contrasts, but it does not mean the same when it comes to referring to time:

- *Julian made some remarks about my project **while** I was away from the office (it is not possible to use **whereas** in this case).*

Yet/still – their meaning is close to **but**, for example:

- *My refrigerator is old. **Still**, its condition is good.*
- *Rebecca’s had a car crash – the damage was huge, **yet** nothing serious happened to her.*
- **On the other hand** is used to show two opposite opinions/points of view, for instance:
- *Sam isn’t a very musical person. **On the other hand**, he is good at playing football.*

Exercise 1

Choose the correct alternative.

1. In spite of/Although having plenty of money, they are very mean.
2. Bill enjoys reading fantasy books, whereas/despite Sheila loves detective stories.
3. Henry lost the last match, yet/while he did not give up.
4. I wouldn’t recommend this idea, however/despite, some people may find it appealing.

5. Peter did not see any point in filing a complaint although/in spite of his wife wanted him to do so.

Exercise 2

Transform the sentences using the word in **bold**.

1. Although they were good classmates, they argued a lot.

In spite of

2. Even though he met the deadline, his work did not meet his bosses' requirements.

Despite

3. Stephen wished Eric well, whereas Betty was jealous of his success.

..... **but**

2- Clauses of result

Clauses of result, as the name suggests, express result of something. These are:

- as a result,
- therefore,
- consequently/as a consequence,
- so
- so/such...that.

As a result/Therefore/Consequently are used in the following ways:

- *Our boss went down with the flu, **as a result/therefore/consequently** the meeting was called off.*
- *Our boss went down with the flu. **As a result/therefore/consequently**, the meeting was called off.*

So is probably the most common linking word of result, for example:

- *It was cold, **so** I decided to put on my winter coat.*
- *John was disappointed about his performance, **so** the entire evening he was sad.*

Such a/an is followed by an **adjective+plural/uncountable noun**, for instance:

- *They are **such** good students **that** they've never failed an exam.*
- *It was **such** exciting news **that** Jenny couldn't fall asleep.*

Such a lot of is followed by a **plural/uncountable noun**, for example:

- *There were **such a lot** of people at the concert **that** it was difficult to breathe.*
- *She has **such a lot** of expensive jewellery **that** it needs to be kept in a safe.*

So + adjective/adverb:

- *Susannah is **so** beautiful **that** she could be a model.*
- *He does this tasks **so** quickly **that** he leaves everyone behind.*

Exercise 3

Fill in the gaps with so, such, such a/an.

- George is intriguing person that I would like to get to know him.
- It was loud that I couldn't hear her.
- It was late when I got home that I brushed my teeth, and went to bed straight away.
- Amy and Jill were good friends that their small argument surprised everyone at the party.

3- Clauses of reason

Clauses of reason are introduced with the following expressions/words:

- because,
- as/since,
- the reason why/for,
- for,
- because of/on account of/due to.

Because seems to be the most popular linking word of reason. Usually no comma is used before because in a sentence:

- *I decided to take a taxi **because** I was already late.*
- ***Because** I was already late, I decided to take a taxi.*
- **As/since** are synonymous with **because**, for instance:
- *She reprimanded Sarah **as** she had been misbehaving.*

For is also close in meaning with **because**, but it is rather used in formal written register. What is more, a clause of reason that starts with for always comes after the main clause, for example:

- *The voters supporting Hillary Clinton were devastated, **for** it was Donald Trump **that** won the latest presidential election in the United States.*

The reason for is followed by a noun or gerund, for instance:

- ***The reason for** her sadness was (the fact) **that** she had lost her money.*
- ***The fact that** she had lost her money was **the reason for** her sadness.*

The reason why is followed by a clause:

- *My supervisor's management style was **the reason why** I decided to look for another job.*

- *The reason why I decided to look for another job was my supervisor's management style.*

Because of/ On account of/Due to are followed by a noun, for instance:

- *My flight to Madrid was cancelled because of/on account of/due to the thick fog.*
- *She almost lost her temper because of/on account of/due to the false accusations.*

It is also possible to add a clause **to because of/on account of/due to** by adding **the fact that** and a clause, for instance:

- *He asked for a pay rise due to the fact that his project had brought the company measurable benefits.*
- *Mary wanted to learn Spanish on account of the fact that she was planning to go to Barcelona.*

Exercise 4

Rewrite the sentences using the word in **bold**.

- Sarah refused to eat dinner. She did not eat meat. **because**
- She decided to attend aerobics classes. She needed to lose weight. **reason why**
..... to attend aerobics classes was the fact that she needed to lose weight.

4- Clauses of purpose

Clauses of purpose are used to show the **aim of an action**.

What linking words of purpose are there? There are a few of them, namely:

- to,
- in order to/so as to,
- so that/in order that,
- in case,
- for.

To is followed by an infinitive:

- *She wanted to talk to Steve to clarify any ambiguities.*
- *I went there to find out what had happened with my car.*

In order to/so as to are close in meaning to **to**, but they are more formal:

- *She took part in a few reputed conferences in order to broaden her knowledge of environmental issues.*
- *David did not make any remarks so as not to offend anyone.*

So that can be followed by **can/will** (in sentences that refer to the present or future), **or could/would** (in sentences that refer to the past), for example:

- *Eric has bought a travel card so that he can commute without any problems.*

- *He bought a travel card **so that** he **could** commute without any problems.*

In case + present tense is used in sentences that express the present or future, whereas **in case +past** tense is used in sentences that express the past, for example:

- *Take an umbrella **in case** it rains.*
- *He took an umbrella **in case** it rained.*

Please note that 'in case' is never followed by will or would.

For + noun, for example:

- *He went to the mechanic **for** a quick vehicle check-up.*

For + ing (to express the purpose of function):

- *We used a saw **for** cutting the wood.*

Exercise 5

Correct the mistake in each sentence.

- We used a spade to digging.
- I took a jumper in case it would get cold.
- Mary took out a loan so that she can buy a car.
- She did her work on time as so not to be late.

5- Clauses of manner

Clauses of manner are used to express the **way in which something is done**.

The expressions **as if/though** are used after the following verbs **sound, taste, smell, appear, seem, look, feel, behave, be, act** to say how something tastes, smells, etc.

Examples:

- *He is acting **as if/though** he's been given some good news.*

The expressions **as if/though** are used with past tenses when we want to talk about **hypothetical, unreal present situation**, for example:

- *She behaves **as if/though** she won the lottery!*
- *Sarah behaves **as if/though** she had all the answers.*

Exercise 6

Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense.

She did not make any contact with people at the party. She looked as though she
(be) lost.

Dave was really dirty. He looked as though he (repair) his old car.

Jill has only just learned how to drive, but she behaves as though she
(drive) for years.

6- Linking words of addition

The following linking words are used to add some ideas to what we want to say or write:

- **furthermore**, for example, *Susannah is really intelligent. **Furthermore**, she is a very beautiful woman.*
- **moreover**, for example, *We have to be really careful when making decisions. **Moreover**, we need more time to think all the options through.*
- **in addition to/additionally**, for example, *We bought a new car. **Additionally**, we are thinking of moving to a bigger flat.*
- **as well as this**, for example, ***As well as this** favourable feedback, we also want to draw your attention to some mistakes you've made in your report.*
- **besides/besides this**, for instance, ***Besides**, the cost of not having her on our side might be really painful for us.*

Common mistakes when using linking words

- *She called a taxi not to be late.* **Incorrect**
- *She called a taxi so as not to be late.* **Correct**
- *Despite the bad weather, we took a walk through the park.* **Correct**
- *Despite of the bad weather, we took a walk through the park.* **Incorrect**
- *Although he was rich, he was constantly unhappy.* **Correct**
- *Although being rich, he was constantly unhappy.* **Incorrect**
- *On the one hand, she is nice, but on the second hand, she can be really mean.* **Incorrect**
- *On the one hand, she is nice, but on the other hand, she can be really mean.* **Correct**
- *I was playing football in bad weather, in a result I got a cold.* **Incorrect**
- *I was playing football in bad weather, as a result I got a cold.* **Correct**
- *I have changed my travel arrangements so that I can go to Munich next month.* **Correct**
- *I have changed my travel arrangements so that I would go to Munich next month.* **Incorrect**
- *Take a hat in case it will snow.* **Incorrect**
- *Take a hat in case it snows.* **Correct**