

Connectors in English

Other words which contribute to the cohesion of the text are the text connectives. These are often called connectors, discourse markers or signal words. They provide the reader with signposts indicating how the text is developing. If the writer wants to show that a summary is coming up, for example, a phrase such as In short ...or briefly ... can be used. If the text is giving a sequence of points, these can be highlighted by the use of such words as to begin ..., Secondly ..., In conclusion...

The following is a list of commonly used connectors in English:

Clarify	Showing cause/result	Indicating time	Sequencing ideas	Adding information	Condition/concession
in other words	so	then	firstly, first	too	in that case
I mean	therefore	next	in the first place	in addition	otherwise
to put it another way	then	afterwards	first of all	indeed	if not
for example	consequently	at the same time	to start with	apart from that	however
for instance	in/as a consequence	before that	to begin	also	nevertheless
to be more precise	as a result	in the end	for a start	furthermore	despite this
or rather	for that reason	finally	second, third, fourth ...	On top of that	besides
in particular	due to ..., owing to ...	soon	at this point	and besides	yet
in fact	accordingly	after a while	to get back to the point	above all	on the other hand
as a matter of fact	because of this	at this point	then	along with	however
that is	in that case	meanwhile	in short	What is more	on the contrary
namely		at this moment	all in all	again	anyhow, anyway
to illustrate		later	briefly	let alone	instead
		previously	to summarise/to sum up	as well	still
			finally	likewise	even so
			a final point	moreover	all the same
			to conclude	similarly	in any case
			in conclusion	equally	at least
			given the above points	in the same way	though
			in light of the above		despite this

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ADDING	SEQUENCING	EMPHASIZING	COMPARING
and	next	above all	equally
also	then	in particular	in the same way
as well as	first, second, third,?	especially	similarly
moreover	Finally	indeed	likewise
too	meanwhile	notably	as with
	after	significantly	like
CAUSE AND EFFECT	QUALIFYING	ILLUSTRATING	CONTRASTING
because	however	for example	whereas
so	although	such as	instead of
therefore	unless	for instance	alternatively
thus	except	as revealed by	otherwise
consequently	if	in the case of	unlike
	as long as		on the other hand
	apart from		
	yet		

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Broad Meaning	Connective Adverbs and Phrases	Conjunctions
Addition	also, too, similarly, in addition, even, indeed, let alone	and, as, like
Opposition	however, nevertheless, on the other hand, in contrast, though, alternatively, anyway, yet, in fact, even so	but, or, (al)though, whereas, while
Reinforcing	besides, anyway, after all	in that
Explaining	for example, for instance, in other words, that is to say, i.e., e.g.	and
Listing	first(ly) ... second(ly), first of all, finally, lastly, for one thing ... for another, in the first place, to begin with, next, in sum, to conclude, in a nutshell	because, since, as, for, if, unless, now (that), so (that), in case, provided (that), whether ... or ...
Indicating result	therefore, consequently, as a result, so, then	when, before, after, since, until, till, while, as, once, whenever
Indicating time	then, meanwhile, later, afterwards, before (that), since (then), meanwhile	

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FIRSTLY	SECONDLY, FURTHERMORE, MOREOVER, IN ADDITION	FINALLY	IN CONCLUSION, IN SUMMARY, THUS
This can be used for the first supporting argument.	These can be used for any further supporting arguments (except, of course, for "Secondly" which can only be used for the second).	This can be used for the last supporting argument. Note: this is not a concluding connective and also you can use "Furthermore", "Moreover" or "In addition" for the last argument if you wish	These all carry roughly the same meaning. They should be used to indicate that you are making final statements that cover all the supporting arguments in a very general way.

Exercise on Connectors

Use the connectors in the box **once only** to fill the gaps.

above all , from my point of view , such as , because of this, furthermore , then , even so , however , therefore , firstly , instead , whereas

- 1 _____, I'd like to say that I agree and, secondly, explain why.
- 2 Camels live in the desert, _____ dolphins live in the sea.
- 3 In the end, we didn't go to the cinema. We went to the theatre _____.
- 4 I think, _____ I am.*
- 5 Spain produces oranges, _____ in Valencia.
- 6 _____, the continued use of fossil fuels is now the biggest threat to humanity.
- 7 I don't like strawberry ice cream. _____, I love chocolate flavor.
- 8 The government is having problems with illegal immigration. _____, their economic policies are failing.
- 9 The weather was bad. _____, the fishermen still went to sea.
- 10 It started raining. _____, we decided not to go.*
- 11 Firstly, we have to think about our budget and _____ about how much time we have.
- 12 I love those soft French cheeses, _____ Camembert

→ See answers on next page

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Key Answers for Exercise on Connectors

- 1 Firstly, I'd like to say that I agree and, secondly, explain why.
- 2 Camels live in the desert, whereas dolphins live in the sea.
- 3 In the end, we didn't go to the cinema. We went to the theatre instead.
- 4 I think, therefore I am.*
- 5 Spain produces oranges, above all in Valencia.
- 6 From my point of view, the continued use of fossil fuels is now the biggest threat to humanity.
- 7 I don't like strawberry ice cream. However, I love chocolate flavor.
- 8 The government is having problems with illegal immigration. Furthermore, their economic policies are failing.
- 9 The weather was bad. Even so, the fishermen still went to sea.
- 10 It started raining. Because of this, we decided not to go.*
- 11 Firstly, we have to think about our budget and then about how much time we have.
- 12 I love those soft French cheeses, such as Camembert.

*4 and 10 appear to have the same answer. However, 4 is a famous quote, so really you don't have a choice after all.

The End

Regards,



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