

CONNECTORS

English connectors: meaning and use

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BASIC VOCABULARY

Before we start with the list of connectors, make sure you are familiar with the following terms:

- ◆ **SENTENCE**
- ◆ **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE**
- ◆ **NOUN PHRASE**



❖ SENTENCE (=“oración”)

A sentence is a group of words which has at least a **SUBJECT** and a **VERB**, and which can stand on its own – it can be **INDEPENDENT**:

□ **H e c a l l e d**

↓ ↓
Sb V

All three conditions must be there. E.g., if it cannot stand on its own, it is not a sentence:

□ **... when he called ...**

□ **... because he called ...**



These are NOT sentences; they can't stand alone

❖ SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

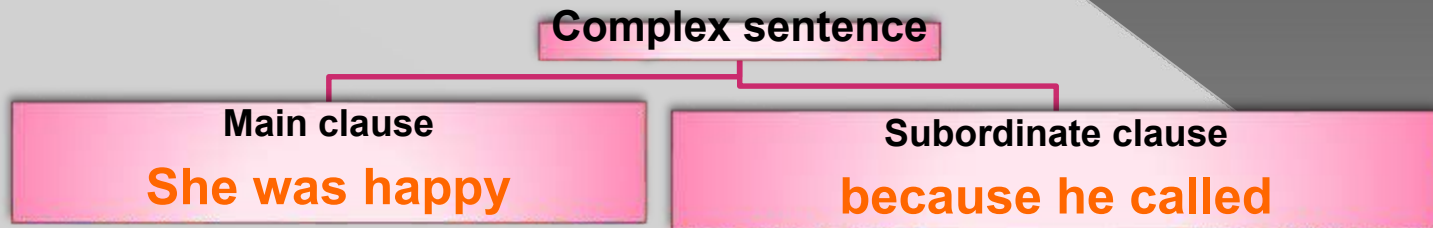
(=“oración subordinada”)

A subordinate clause is a group of words which also contain at least a **SUBJECT** and a **VERB**, but which cannot stand on its own – it is **DEPENDENT**.

□ ... **b e c a u s e** **h e c a l l e d**

↓ ↓ ↓
connector Sb V

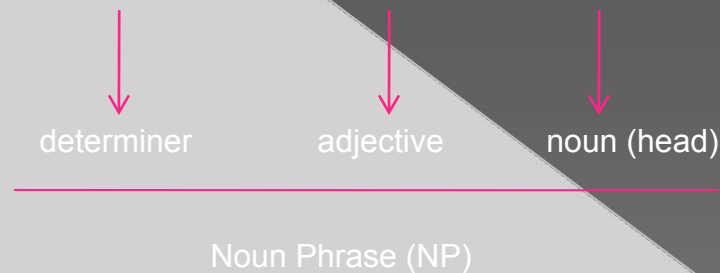
It needs a main clause to complete its meaning. It is only a fragmen of a complex sentence:



❖ NOUN PHRASE (=“grupo nominal”)

A phrase (= a group of words) whose head is a NOUN, a PRONOUN, or a GERUND acting as a noun. It can be accompanied by determiners, adjectives or other modifiers, and it always functions as the SUBJECT or the OBJECT of a sentence:

❑ **these wonderful actors**



TYPES OF CONNECTORS

1. CONNECTORS OF **ADDITION**
2. CONNECTORS OF **CONTRAST**
3. CONNECTORS OF **CAUSE AND REASON**
4. CONNECTORS OF **RESULT**
5. CONNECTORS OF **PURPOSE**
6. CONNECTORS OF **TIME AND SEQUENCE**
7. CONNECTORS OF **SIMILARITY**
8. CONNECTORS OF **OPINION**
9. CONNECTORS EXPRESSING **GENERAL STATEMENTS**
10. CONNECTORS EXPRESSING A **REALITY**
11. CONNECTORS TO GIVE **EXAMPLES**
12. CONNECTORS TO **LIST POINTS**
13. CONNECTORS EXPRESSING **CONCLUSION**



1. CONNECTORS OF ADDITION

(to add information or points on a topic)

- In addition to ("además de")
- as well as ("así como")
- apart from ("aparte de")
- except for ("excepto")
- besides ("además de")

+ noun phrase

- **In addition to** obesity, fast food causes serious health problems.
NP
- **Besides** obesity, fast food causes serious health problems.
NP
- Fast food causes obesity **as well as** serious health problems
NP

- In addition, ("además")
- Moreover,
- Furthermore, ("además, es más")
- What's more,
- Besides,

+ sentence (note the comma)

- Fast food causes obesity. **In addition**, it may also cause serious health problems.
sentence
- Fast food causes obesity. **Besides**, it may also cause serious health problems.
sentence

- and ("y")
- also ("también")
- too ("también, además")

(these are conjunctions within sentence)

- Fast food causes obesity. It may **also** cause serious health problems.
- Fast food causes obesity, **and** it may cause serious health problems **too**

2. CONNECTORS OF CONTRAST

(to show opposing information)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In spite of ▪ Despite (‘a pesar de’) 	<p>+ noun phrase</p> <p>□ In spite of <u>the calories</u>, I love burgers! / Despite <u>the calories</u>, I love burgers! NP NP</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although (‘aunque’) • Even though (‘incluso aunque,’) • Even if (‘incluso si’) • While • Whereas (‘mientras, mientras que’) 	<p>+ subordinate clause</p> <p>□ Although <u>burguers contain a lot of fat</u>, <u>they’re delicious!</u> subordinate clause main clause</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, (‘sin embargo’) • Nevertheless, (‘de todas formas’) • On the contrary, (‘por el contrario’) • On the one hand, (‘por un lado’) • On the other hand, (‘por otro lado’) 	<p>+ sentence (note the comma)</p> <p>□ Burgers are tasty. However, <u>they contain a lot of fat</u>. sentence</p> <p>□ I know fast food is not healthy. On the contrary, <u>it may cause serious health problems</u>. sentence</p>

CONNECTORS OF CONTRAST

(cont.)

- , but (“pero”)
- Yet, (“a pesar de”)
- Still, (“aún así”)

+ sentence (note the comma)

□ I know burgers are unhealthy. **Yet, I eat a lot of them.**
sentence

3. CONNECTORS OF CAUSE & REASON

- because of ("debido a")
- due to
- owing to
- thanks to
- as a result of ("como consecuencia de")

+ noun phrase

- My brother is on a diet **due to** his obesity problems.

NP

- He expects to lose 15 kilos **as a result of** the diet.

NP

- because ("porque")
- since
- as
- seeing that

+ subordinate clause

- Since he had serious health problems, he went on a diet.

subordinate clause main clause

- He went on a diet **because** he had serious health problems.

main clause subordinate clause

4. CONNECTORS OF RESULT

- As a result, ("por ello, como consecuencia,")
- Consequently,
- As a consequence, ("por ello, como consecuencia, ")
- Therefore,
- Thus, ("por lo tanto, así")
- For this reason, ("por este motivo,")
- That is why, (" es por ello que,")

+ sentence (note the comma)

□ The flood destroyed the village. **As a result**, many people lost their homes sentence

□ I think. **Therefore**, I am sentence

5. CONNECTORS OF PURPOSE

(to show finality, intent)

- in order to
 - so as to
 - to
- (“para, con el propósito de”)

+ infinitive

- You must study **in order to** learn.
infinitive
- You must study **so as not to** be illiterate.
infinitive

- in order that
 - so that
- (“para que”)

+ subordinate clause (with a MODAL VERB)

- You must study **so that you** can become educated.
main clause subordinate clause
- He lent me his notes **in order that** I could study for the exam.
main clause subordinate clause

6. CONNECTORS OF TIME & SEQUENCE

- In the beginning,
 - At first,
 - Firslt of all, ("Lo primero,")
-]
- Then,
 - Next,
 - Later,
 - After that,
 - Afterwards,
-]
- ("después, luego, a continuación")
- Meanwhile, ("mientras tanto")
 - Soon, ("pronto")
- Finally,
 - In the end,
 - Eventually,
 - At last, ("al final, por fin")
-]
- ("finalmente, al final")

+ sentence (note the comma)

- **At first,** she thought he was an idiot.
sentence
- **Then,** she started to get to know him better.
sentence
- **Soon,** she began to change her mind.
sentence
- **Eventually,** she fell passionately in love with him.
sentence

6. CONNECTORS OF TIME & SEQUENCE (cont.)

- when ("cuando")
- while]
- as ("mientras")
- before ("antes de")
- after ("después de")
- until ("hasta que")
- as soon as ("en cuanto que")
- by the time ("para cuando")

+ subordinate clause

- Cinderella danced and danced **until** her feet hurt.
main clause subordinate clause
- **Before** the clock stroke 12, she jumped into her coach.
subordinate clause main clause
- **After** she had left, she noticed she was missing a shoe.
subordinate clause main clause
- **By the time** she got home, her coach had turned into a pumpkin.
subordinate clause main clause

- before ("antes de")
- after ("después de")
- until ("hasta")
- during (durante, a lo largo de)

+ noun phrase

- Cinderella had to arrived home **before** midnight.
NP
- The prince looked for Cinderella **after** the dance.
NP

7. CONNECTORS OF SIMILARITY

- Similarly,
- Likewise, (“igualmente,
- In the same way,

asimismo “)

+ sentence (note the comma)

□ Children don't pay for the museum. **Likewise**, pensioners are exempt. sentence

8. CONNECTORS OF OPINION

- Personally, ("personalmente")
- In my opinion, ("en mi opinión")
- As I see it,]
- In my view,] ("desde mi punto de vista")

+ sentence (note the comma)

□ **Personally,** I prefer watching films in the original version.
sentence

□ **As I see it,** subtitles are better than dubbing.
sentence

Other useful expressions:

- *I (strongly) believe (that)* ("creo que, estoy convencido de")
- *I feel (that)*
- *I think (that)*] ("creo que, pienso que")
- *It seems to me (that)* ("me parece que")
- *It is clear that* ("está claro que")

□ **I strongly believe that** foreign films should not be dubbed. _

□ **It is clear that** the original voices are absolutely unique. _

9. CONNECTORS INTRODUCING GENERAL STATEMENTS

- In general,
- On the whole, (‘‘en general’’)
- Generally,
- As a rule, (‘‘como regla general,’’)

+ sentence (note the comma)

□ I passed my driving test yesterday and my sister lent me her car. **On the whole,** it was a great day.
sentence

10. CONNECTORS EXPRESSING A REALITY

- In fact,
- As a matter of fact,
- Actually (“en realidad”)
- The truth is (that) (“lo cierto es que”)

(“de hecho”)

+ sentence

□ The film was good. **In fact**, it was one of the best I've ever seen. sentence

11. CONNECTORS FOR EXAMPLES

- , such as

- , like

(“como, como por ejemplo”)

- , particularly

- , in particular

(“en especial, sobre todo”)

- , especially

- , specifically

+ noun phrase(s) – preceded by comma

□ There are several common eating disorders, **such as** anorexia and bulimia.

NP

□ Anorexia affects many people, **particularly** teenagers.

NP

- for example,

- for instance,

(“por ejemplo”)

+ noun phrase(s) or sentence

□ Let us consider, **for instance**, the problem of anorexia.

NP

□ Anorexia has many side effects. It can, for instance, affect your personality.

sentence

12. CONNECTORS TO LIST POINTS

- To begin with,
 - In the first place,
 - First of all,
 - Firstly,
- (“en primer lugar,”)
- Secondly, (“en segundo lugar”)
 - Thirdly, (“en tercer lugar”)
 - Finally, (“finalmente,”)
 - Lastly, (“para acabar, en último lugar”)

+ sentence (note the comma)

- **In the first place,** we must be aware of the problem.
sentence
- **Secondly,** we must discuss the problem in full.
sentence
- **Finally,** we must try to reach an agreement.
sentence

13. CONNECTORS EXPRESSING A CONCLUSION

- In conclusion,
- In short,
- To sum up,
- To conclude,

(“en resumen, en conclusión”)

(“para resumir, para concluir”)

+ sentence (note the comma)

❑ **In short,** connectors are not that hard to learn.
sentence