

PRE-INTERMEDIATE UNIT 1

linking words

speakout WRITING TIP

When we write about past events, we use the past simple tense to describe what happened. We use linkers to connect our ideas within sentences.

We use *and* to add information.

I went to the beach every day and I went surfing twice.

We use *but* to contrast information.

I went swimming every day but I didn't go surfing.

We use *because* to describe the reason for something.

I moved to Spain because I wanted to learn Spanish.

We use *so* to describe a result.

I wanted to learn Spanish, so I moved to Spain.

We use a comma before *so* but not before *because*.

1 Read the text and answer the questions about Mary's important year.

- 1 Why was 2007 important for her?
- 2 Who did she meet?
- 3 What activities did she do?
- 4 Find four examples of the past simple tense.

Mary's important year

2007 was an important year for me because I started to go to university. I met lots of new people, so it was a very exciting time. I worked hard and passed all my exams. I also acted in the university drama group and played in the women's football team. I met my future husband that year but we only began going out later. Meeting Dave was the best thing about 2007.



2 Match the sentence halves. Then connect them using *and*, *but*, *so* or *because*.

- 1 I joined the university drama group.
- 2 I wanted to learn chess.
- 3 We drove to the beach.
- 4 We did an Italian cookery course.
- 5 They got engaged at university.
- 6 There wasn't any snow.
- 7 He proposed to her after one month.
- 8 2006 was a great year.
- a) It started raining so we didn't stay long.
- b) I met my boyfriend.
- c) We learned how to make pasta.
- d) She didn't accept.
- e) I joined a club at university.
- f) They got married a year later.
- g) I liked acting.
- h) We couldn't go skiing.

3 Complete the text with *and*, *so*, *but* or *because*.

2012 was great because we went to Mallorca. We stayed in a very good hotel ¹ _____ we went to the swimming pool every day. We also hired a car ² _____ we wanted to explore the villages near the hotel. The weather was hot in the day ³ _____ in the evening it was cool. My birthday was on the last day of the holiday, ⁴ _____ we had a party.

4 Write about an important year in your life. Write 60–80 words.

Plan your writing

- Think about the important year.
 - Why was it important? What happened?
 - Give details and say what was the best thing about the year.

Check your writing

- Have you used some of the linkers?
- Did you check your grammar and spelling?
- Did you find any mistakes?