

Linkers, also called transition words or adverbial conjunctions, can be used to begin sentences.

Put a comma after most linkers (except *Then*).

Linkers **follow a period** with a **capital letter**:

She doesn't type very fast. *In addition*, she can't spell.

She works fast. *Consequently*, she finishes early.

or they can **follow a semi-colon** with a **small letter**:

She doesn't type very fast; *in addition*, she can't spell.

She works fast; *consequently*, she finishes early.

Remember: a **period** or **semi-colon** *before* the linker--a **comma** *after* the linker!

Here are some sentences showing how to use 64 common linkers:

talking about the present time

1. **These days**, computers are available in most public schools and libraries.
2. **Nowadays**, women get heart attacks almost as often as men do.
3. **In this day and age**, technology is present in every facet of our life.
4. **Currently**, the economy is strong.
5. **At the present time**, the President is facing political difficulties.

talking about the historic past

6. **A long time ago**, there were no computers in schools.
7. **In the past**, people went to the river to get drinking water.
8. **Formerly**, slaves did much of the work in this country.
9. **In the old days**, kings and princes ruled people's lives.

giving additional examples and reasons

10. He's too weak to do heavy labor. **In addition**, his memory is failing him.
11. I think he's a boring teacher. **What's more**, he doesn't know his subject.
12. I don't have time to read Shakespeare. **Besides**, I don't understand him.
13. She's always late for work. **Besides this**, she loses important files.
14. The school doesn't have money for books. **Furthermore**, the building is old.
15. I am too busy to help you. **Moreover**, I think you can do it by yourself.
16. She's smart and beautiful. **On top of that**, she's kind and considerate.

giving the truth

17. I don't like little Ricky. **To tell the truth**, I think he's a monster.
18. He says he's a vegetarian. **In fact**, he eats seafood on occasion.
19. He calls himself a "professor." **Actually**, he's only a teaching assistant!

giving information which is against normal expectation

20. His liver was in bad shape. **That notwithstanding**, he continued to drink.
21. He loved her very much. **However**, he didn't ask her to marry him.
22. She hated him. **Even so**, she accepted all of his dinner invitations.
23. The boy got F's on all his exams. **All the same**, the teacher passed him.
24. I wasn't hungry. **Still**, I had dinner with the family and ate a lot.
25. I hated that job with a passion. **Nevertheless**, I stayed for ten years.
26. She spent hours in the hot kitchen. **Regardless**, he didn't touch her food.

giving the bright side or the sad side

27. She was hit by a car. **Fortunately**, she wasn't killed.
28. He lost his house in the hurricane. **Happily**, his whole family survived.
29. She inherited a million dollars. **Unfortunately**, she invested the money badly.
30. He did everything to make her happy. **Sadly**, she never grew to love him.

showing consistencies and similarities

31. He worked hard to make his wife happy. **Likewise**, she took good care of him.
32. He treated his workers well. **In the same way**, he did everything for his kids.
33. The lady was an angel. **Similarly**, her husband helped the poor in their town.

showing inconsistencies or dissimilarities

34. He was handsome and smart. **On the other hand**, he dressed very badly.
35. Falcons fly 200 miles per hour. **In contrast**, ostriches can't fly at all.

stating what is clearly true or probably true

36. He sang and danced when he was at work. **Without question**, he liked his job.
37. He always took his kids to the park. **Undoubtedly**, he loved them a lot.
38. He gave vacation time and sick leave. **Surely**, his workers appreciated it.
39. He was invited to all the parties. **Indeed**, he was quite popular.
40. He kept closing his eyes while I was speaking. **Apparently**, he hadn't slept well.
41. He couldn't recognize his friends. **Possibly**, he had Alzheimer's disease.

showing a direct result

42. We were tired and hungry. **Therefore**, we stopped to rest and eat lunch.
43. He went out dancing every week night. **Consequently**, he failed his class.
44. He studied hard and did all his homework. **Thus**, he got A's most of the time.
45. He worked seven days a week, twenty hours a day. **As a result**, he got sick.

Larry and Harry

On reflection, I really loved Larry a lot, but I knew I shouldn't keep going out with him! **First of all**, he cursed and swore all the time, on the street and even in church! **Secondly**, he dressed like a child, in torn, dirty jeans.

At first, I thought he was youthful and free-spirited, but **then** I realized that he was just immature. **Next**, I found out that he still lived with his mother, and **a little later**, I found out that he didn't even have a job. **After this**, somebody told me that he was living on money that his dead father had left him and that he had never worked a day in his life.

After some careful thought, I told him to stop calling me, but **despite that**, he kept leaving messages on my phone. **Soon**, he gave up calling me, and **finally**, I was rid of him.

Gradually, I got used to being without him even though I missed him. **Little by little**, I started going out again, and **after a while**, I met some really nice guys at parties. **After some time**, I began dating men, and **eventually**, I met Harold, who is my current husband.

Hopefully, my daughter will meet somebody who is funny and free-spirited like Larry was, but, **with any luck**, he will also be responsible and considerate like her father is. **In the future**, I will be ready to give her a mother's advice when she starts dating men.