

Connecting Words

Words that connect ideas together fall into four main groups:

- the *and* relationship, which shows that additional information is given that is likely to add to your argument, or which give further illustration of your point;
- the *but* relationship, which shows that you wish to present information that will contrast with or contradict your previous point;
- the *so* relationship, which gives the idea of outcome or result... *this is the case, so that must follow*;
- and words that give a *sense of time*, words which mark each point in a series of points, or indicate that you are about to summarise or conclude.

The following sheets give words and phrases that are frequently used to express these connections. Their use is sometimes subtle. Practice looking out for them in your reading and becoming aware of any slight differences in their meaning.

And

Conjunctive adverbs: these join two clauses together after a semi-colon and must be followed by a comma.

Example: There were many problems with the design of the rocket; *moreover*, changes in the crew also affected the launch.

Some conjunctive adverbs can also begin sentences.

Words to use within sentences

In addition

Furthermore

Alternatively (note: not necessarily contrasting, but another point to consider)

Likewise

Similarly

In the same way

Moreover

Also

That is

Besides

Not only... but also

But

Conjunctive adverbs: these join two clauses together after a semi-colon and must be followed by a comma.

Example: There were many problems with the design of the rocket; *however*, the changes in the crew were more important regarding the crash.

Some conjunctive adverbs can also begin sentences.

Words to use within sentences

Despite this

However

Nevertheless

Instead

On the other hand

At the same time

On the contrary

In any case

In either case

Rather

Yet

So

Conjunctive adverbs: these join two clauses together after a semi-colon and must be followed by a comma.

Example: There were many problems with the design of the rocket; *moreover*, changes in the crew also affected the launch.

Some conjunctive adverbs can also begin sentences.

Words to use within sentences

Therefore

Consequently

For this reason

On account of this

In consequence

Arising out of this

To this end

In that case

In such a case

Under the circumstances

With reference to this

In other respects

Hence

Because of this

That being so

Otherwise

Time

Conjunctive adverbs: these join two clauses together after a semi-colon (or colon in a list) and must be followed by a comma.

Example: Several factors affected the launch: firstly, there were problems with the design of the rocket; *secondly*, the crew were not prepared; *and finally*, the stormy weather affected the launch site.

Some conjunctive adverbs can also begin sentences.

First... then... next... finally

Firstly... secondly... thirdly...
finally

At first... in the end

Previously

Up to now

Hitherto

Now

At this point

After that

From now on

After a time

On another occasion

Meanwhile

To sum up

In summary

Briefly

In conclusion