

Link Words

A. Introduction

Syntactic contexts

SENTENCE CONJUNCTS: they are typically the first word in the sentence although some are mobile. They establish a link with the previous sentence:

*He was ill. **However**, he went to work.*

CONJUNCTIONS: they establish a link within a sentence, they must introduce a subordinate clause:

***Although** he was ill, he went to work.*

*He went to work **although** he was ill.*

PREPOSITIONS: they establish a link within a sentence, they can only introduce a noun or a gerund:

***Despite** his illness he went to work.*

*He went to work **despite** his illness.*

***Despite** being ill he went to work.*

*He went to work **despite** being ill.*

They can be followed by the noun "the fact" and a "that" clause subordinated to the noun:

*He went to work **despite the fact that** he was ill.*

1. Linking words expressing CAUSE/EFFECT, REASON

Sentence Conjunctions	Conjunctions	Prepositions
Consequently	since	owing to
So	as	due to
Thus	because	because of
Therefore	for ¹	as a result of
As a result		on account of
That's why		

¹

“For” is almost a sentence conjunct: it introduces an explanation and it must come after the clause that expresses the thing explained.

2. Linking words expressing CONTRAST

Sentence Conjunctions	Subordinating Conjunctions	Prepositions
However	although	in spite of
Yet	though	despite
Nevertheless	even though	
Nonetheless		
	while	
	whereas	

3. Linking words expressing ADDITION

Sentence Conjunctions	Subordinating Conjunctions	Prepositions
Besides		besides
Moreover		apart from
Furthermore		
In addition		in addition to

4. Linking words expressing TIME

Sentence Conjunctions	Subordinating Conjunctions	Prepositions
Afterwards	after	after
After this/that		
Before	before	before
Meanwhile	while	

We **cannot** use the expression *the fact that* with these words.

We went to the cinema after dinner / After dinner, we went to the cinema.

We had dinner. Afterwards, we went to the cinema.

We had dinner. After that, we went to the cinema.

We went to the cinema after we had dinner.

It was lovely while it lasted.

He called while you were here.

I was studying hard. Meanwhile, my friend was travelling all over the world.

5. Linking words expressing PURPOSE

Sentence Conjuncts	Subordinating Conjunctions	PREPOSITIONS
To this end For that purpose	so that so as to in order to to + infinitive for + gerund (-ing)	

6. Other important linking devices:

a. Comparison

Like
Similarly
Likewise

The word *like* is used only with nouns. The word *as* is used with other groups of words. The words *similarly* and *likewise* are sentence conjuncts indicating similarity.

Like my father, I'm fond of photography.

I got a present when I graduated from highschool. Similarly, I'll get one when I get my bachelor's degree.

I know that I will be sick if I drink too much. Likewise, I know I'll feel sick if I eat too much.

Too, as well and alike also express similarity or coincidence.

I can play piano. I can play guitar as well.

I have a bike. He's got one, too.

Students and teachers alike demanded better schedules.

b. Condition

otherwise

Apart from the conditional subordinators we will see in unit 4 (*if, unless, as long as/provided/providing, and in case*) there is one other important conditional linking device: *otherwise*, which is a sentence conjunct expressing negative condition ("*If this is not the case*").

You must really do all the assignments in the course. Otherwise, you will not be able to sit the exam.

B. Practice

1. In the following exercise you must choose the correct option.

a) however b) but c) although d) yet

1. We were all confident the bad news.

4. I'll drink the wine someone else wants it.

a) due to b) although c) despite d) in spite

a) provided b) unless c) in case d) as

2. they had studied a lot, they passed the exam

5. I went to the party I was really tired.

a) Whereas b) Although c) Thus d) Since

a) despite b) although c) as d) since

3. I tried hard. I didn't,, succeed.

6. programming in machine language, she also plays tennis.

- a) despite b) beside c) in addition to d) furthermore

7. The economy is organized the poor must give to the rich.

- a) whereas b) despite c) so that d) as soon as

8. They couldn't operate the doctor was ill.

- a) due to b) despite c) so that d) because

2. In the following exercise you must decide whether the sentences are well-formed sentences in English, if they are not, make the necessary changes so they become correct.

1. We arrived on time despite the heavy traffic.
its correct

2. Although I was angry, I didn't say anything.
its correct

3. In spite of that I was ill, I went to work.
Although
in spite of the fact that ...

4. Unlike Windows, Linux works.

5. She was tired due to she had been working too hard.
because

6. Before of quitting the program, save all your work.
before quitting...

7. While his speech, I fell asleep.
During

8. Although the fact that I was tired, I went to the party.
despite

In spite of
9. I had a headache. Although I went to the party.
However

10. She'll solve the problem however difficult it is.

its correct

aqui however es 'por muy'

3. Rewrite the sentences with the new beginnings.

1. Although it was an elegant solution, it didn't work.

Despite

2. During his speech, I fell asleep.

While ...he was specking I fell sleep.....

3. Due to the heavy traffic we were late for the preview.

As ...the traffic was heavy we were late for the preview
there was heavy traffic

4. She can speak fluent French and she can pilot aeroplanes.

Besides ...speaking a fluent French, she can pilot planes

5. In spite of John's objections our proposal was accepted.

Even though John objected our proposal was accepted

6. They were working too quickly. Consequently they made a mess of the job.

As ...they were working too quickly they made a mess of
the job

7. He couldn't do the job well as he had the flu.

As a result...of his flu he couldn't do the job

8. I won't tell them unless they ask me.

If ...they don't ask me, I won't tell them.

9. If you don't study, you'll fail the exam.

you must study..... Otherwise, you fail the exam
'si no'

10. They had a great deal of work. Nevertheless, they managed to finish it.

Although.....

11. First he refused the offer, then he changed his mind.

After.....

12. She is well qualified and has experience in the field.

Apart

13. Although they frequently disagree, they work well together.

In spite

14. You won't understand if you don't pay careful attention.

Unless

15. Despite our desperate attempt to avoid this problem, it has occurred.

Although

16. Due to its numerous facilities, the package is extremely popular.

As.....

17. The solution is elegant and efficient.

In addition to.....

18. First she switched off the machine. Then she repaired it.

Before.....

19. Whereas Windows is a proprietary system, Linux is not.

Unlike.....

20. As she reacted quickly, she was able to solve the problem.

Owing.....

