

CONNECTORS (Intermediate 2)

Connectors or *linking words* are extremely important because they help us organise and connect our ideas in a logical way. Therefore, they have a double role:

- a) a **grammatical** function: connecting structures (words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs...)
- b) a **meaning** function: explaining the relationship between the ideas (if two ideas go in the same direction, if they express a contrast, if one is cause/consequence of the other...)

1. Connecting two ideas which go in the same direction (similar to *and*, *or* and *and not*)

And: *besides; what's more; in addition; not only..., but (also)...*, etc. We find them at the beginning of the second idea followed by a comma. Both ideas appear usually in separate sentences, but we can also include them in the same sentence:

I don't have time to plan a holiday this year. Besides, I haven't saved enough money.

I don't have time to plan a holiday this year and, besides, I haven't saved enough money.

Or: *either... or...* . This connector introduces two different possibilities in a positive sentence:

We can have dinner either at a Chinese or a French restaurant. What do you prefer?

And not: *neither... not...* . This connector introduces two different possibilities in a negative sentence:

We can't have dinner neither at the Chinese nor the French restaurants because they are closed on Sunday. We could go to the Mexican one, instead.

2. Connecting two contrasting ideas (similar to *but*)

However, nevertheless, despite this and *in spite of this* usually appear at the beginning of the second idea followed by a comma. They link contrasting ideas the ideas in different sentences. We can also find *however* at the middle or the end of the sentence, specially in spoken English:

I tried to finish the book. However, I didn't manage to.

I tried to finish the book. I didn't manage to, however.

I tried to finish the book. Despite this, I didn't manage to.

Although, even though, though, while, despite the fact that and *in spite of the fact that* link contrasting ideas in the same sentence. They usually appear at the beginning of one of the ideas, but *though* can also be found at the end of the sentence, specially in spoken English. In this last case both ideas appear in different sentences and, therefore, *though* is more similar to *however*:

Although the film had good reviews, I didn't really liked it.

I didn't really liked the film, even though it had good reviews.

The film had good reviews. I didn't really liked it, though.

Despite the fact that the film had good ideas, I didn't really liked it.

Despite the good reviews, I didn't really like the film.

I finally saw the Italian film, while my boyfriend preferred an American blockbuster.

3. Connecting a cause and a consequence (similar to *because*)

As, and ***since*** usually appear at the beginning of the first idea:

As it was starting to rain, we decided to go home.

Because of (the fact that) and ***due to (the fact that)*** can appear at the beginning of the both ideas:

Due to the rain, we decided to go home.

Due to the fact that it was starting to rain, we decided to go home.

We decided to go home because of the rain

We decided to go home due to the rain.

For this reason, as a result, as a consequence, therefore, so and ***consequently*** usually appear at the beginning of the second idea. The ideas can be in the same sentence or not

It was starting to rain and, consequently, we decided to go home.

It was starting to rain. As a result, the concert was cancelled.

4. Connecting a fact and a result (similar to *for*)

In order to, to, so as to and ***so (that)*** appear at the beginning of the second idea. Both ideas are always in the same sentence

They had to go in order to get the last bus.

They had to go so as to get the last bus.

They had to go so that they could get the last bus.

So... (that) is used with adjectives and ***such... (that)*** is used with nouns. They intensify the quality of the word they go with.

The book was so exciting (that) I simply couldn't put it down.

It was such a good book (that) I simply couldn't put it down.

5. Practice

Fill in the gaps with the correct connector. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. _____ I'm not used to interpret simultaneously, I did it quite well during my first day of work.
2. _____ the computer manufacturers have agreed to replace the computers free of charge, the new computers will not be installed for at least three months.
3. _____ the car is old, it is still reliable.
4. Be careful when handling a knife _____ not to get injured.
5. Buying a house is expensive. It is, _____, a good investment.
6. Guardiola trained hard for years and, _____, he became one of the best football players in Spain.
7. Handle the flowers carefully _____ not to damage them.
8. He chose this University _____ he could study English.
9. He spoke Russian _____ well _____ everyone thought he was Russian.
10. He was _____ tired _____ he went to bed early.
11. His wife left him and, _____, he became very depressed.
12. I don't really want to go out tonight. _____ there is a good film on TV.
13. I studied a lot. _____ I got an excellent mark.
14. I turned off the radio _____ I could hear my thoughts.
15. I went to the music shop _____ buy the last Eagles CD.
16. I'm determined to buy a house this year. I don't know where exactly, _____.
17. _____ it was snowing, the festival took place as usual.
18. _____ the noise, the students could study for their test.
19. _____ the rain, I went for a walk.
20. It was late _____ he decided to take a taxi home.
21. It was _____ a difficult exam _____ he knew he wouldn't pass it.
22. You really must make up your mind. It's a big decision to make, _____.
23. It's _____ a cold day _____ I will stay in bed.
24. John is very rich _____ his friends are extremely poor.
25. Many of the deaths of older people are _____ heart attacks.
26. Many people think scientists are abusing of animals. _____, those people do nothing to stop the problem.
27. Mrs. Dean was sleeping, _____ she didn't hear the thief.
28. Mrs. Smith is an intelligent and stimulating teacher. _____ she takes an interest in the personal well-being of her students; _____ is Mrs. Smith an intelligent and stimulating teacher _____ she _____ takes an interest in the personal well-being of her students.
29. She _____ writes novels _____ she _____ teaches.
30. _____ we arrived late, all the best seats had been taken.
31. Students have learnt a lot _____ this new project.
32. Computer manufacturers have agreed to replace the computers free of charge, _____ the new computers will not be installed for at least three months.

33. Computer manufacturers have agreed to replace the system free of charge. _____, the new equipment will not be installed for at least three months.
34. _____ computer manufacturers have agreed to replace the system free of charge, the new equipment will not be installed for at least three months.
35. The film was _____ boring _____ I went out before the end.
36. The food was bad and, _____, we didn't eat it.
37. The house was _____ large _____ it was _____ modern.
38. The painting is _____ valuable _____ a work of art.
39. The Pope couldn't travel _____ the bad weather.
40. The secretary types _____ quickly _____ she always has her work in time.
41. We are unable to go by train _____ the rail strike.
42. We came to the countryside _____ find some peace and quiet.

A number of writers have claimed that Asian women are now as free as their Western counterparts to get divorced. _____, the average Asian woman does not really have the same freedom to get divorced if she is in an unhappy marriage.

Statistics clearly show that in the West, it is women, relatively independent in attitude and finances, who initiate most divorces. Unfortunately, many Asian women still depend financially on their husbands and, _____, may have to endure an unhappy marriage.

Another important point is that some countries, the Philippines for example, do not permit divorce and, even if an Asian woman is prepared to live in relative poverty, she is likely to suffer from social problems related to divorce. _____ the problems, the Asian divorce rate is slowly increasing.

Bibliography

Some grammar examples adapted from:

Jones, Leo, *New progress to First Certificate. Self-Study Student's Book*. CUP, 2005.

Gairns, Ruth and Redman, Stuart, *Natural English. Upper-Intermediate Student's Book*. OUP, 2003

Practice sentences adapted from www2.udel.edu/~ebanados/proyecto/rules.htm

Text adapted from http://www.edict.com.hk/LessonOftheDay/logical_connectors.htm

6. Key

1. Although/Even though I'm not used to interpret simultaneously, I did it quite well during my first day of work.
2. Although/Even though the computer manufacturers have agreed to replace the computers free of charge, the new computers will not be installed for at least three months.
3. Although/Even though the car is old, it is still reliable.
4. Be careful when handling a knife in order not to/so as not to get injured.
5. Buying a house is expensive. It is, however, a good investment.
6. Guardiola trained hard for years and, so/ as a result/consequence/therefore/consequently, he became one of the best football players in Spain.
7. Handle the flowers carefully in order/so as not to damage them.
8. He chose this University so that he could study English.
9. He spoke Russian so well that everyone thought he was Russian.
10. He was so tired that he went to bed early.
11. His wife left him and, so/as a result/consequence/therefore/consequently, he became very depressed.
12. I don't really want to go out tonight. Besides/What's more/In addition, there is a good film on TV.
13. I studied a lot. so/as a result/consequence/therefore/consequently I got an excellent mark.
14. I turned off the radio so that I could hear my thoughts.
15. I went to the music shop in order to/so as to/ to buy the last Eagles CD.
16. I'm determined to buy a house this year. I don't know where exactly, though.
17. In spite of/Despite the fact that it was snowing, the festival took place as usual.
18. In spite of/Despite the noise, the students could study for their test.
19. In spite of/Despite the rain, I went for a walk.
20. It was late so/as a result/consequence/therefore/consequently he decided to take a taxi home.
21. It was such a difficult exam (that) he knew he wouldn't pass it.
22. You really must make up your mind. It's a big decision to make, though.
23. It's such a cold day that I will stay in bed.
24. John is very rich while his friends are extremely poor.
25. Many of the deaths of older people are due to/because of heart attacks.
26. Many people think scientists are abusing of animals. However/Nevertheless, those people do nothing to stop the problem.
27. Mrs. Dean was sleeping, so/ as a result/consequence/therefore/consequently she didn't hear the thief.
28. Mrs. Smith is an intelligent and stimulating teacher. Besides/What's more/In addition she takes an interest in the personal well-being of her students; Not only is Mrs. Smith an intelligent and stimulating teacher but she also takes an interest in the personal well-being of her students.
29. She not only writes novels but she also teaches.
30. Since/As/Because of the fact that we arrived late, all the best seats had been taken.
31. Students have learnt a lot due to/because of this new project.

32. Computer manufacturers have agreed to replace the computers free of charge, although/even though/though the new computers will not be installed for at least three months.
33. Computer manufacturers have agreed to replace the system free of charge. However/nevertheless, the new equipment will not be installed for at least three months.
34. Despite the fact/in spite of the fact that computer manufacturers have agreed to replace the system free of charge, the new equipment will not be installed for at least three months.
35. The film was so boring that I went out before the end.
36. The food was bad and, so/ as a result/consequence/therefore/consequently, we didn't eat it.
37. The house was not only large but it was also modern.
38. The painting is not only valuable but also a work of art.
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A number of writers have claimed that Asian women are now as free as their Western counterparts to get divorced. However/Nevertheless/Despite this, the average Asian woman does not really have the same freedom to get divorced if she is in an unhappy marriage.

Statistics clearly show that in the West, it is women, relatively independent in attitude and finances, who initiate most divorces. Unfortunately, many Asian women still depend financially on their husbands and, for this reason/as a result/consequently/so/therefore, may have to endure an unhappy marriage.

Another important point is that some countries, the Philippines for example, do not permit divorce and, even if an Asian woman is prepared to live in relative poverty, she is likely to suffer from social problems related to divorce. Despite of/In spite of the problems, the Asian divorce rate is slowly increasing.