

# LINKERS key

**TASK 1:** The sentences that follow all contain mistakes in use of cohesive devices. Label them G for a grammar mistake (including wrong punctuation) and M (=meaning) if the wrong linker has been used. If the meaning seems to be okay, the mistake must be one of grammar, and vice versa.

1. There are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss, however, this rarely happens.

**Grammar (punctuation)**

**Better:**

- a) There are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss (,) but this rarely happens.
- b) There are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss. However, this rarely happens.
- c) There are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss. This, however, rarely happens.
- d) Although there are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss, this rarely happens.

*NOT On the other hand/ whereas/ in contrast/ on the contrary*

2. Japan's shrinking working age population will almost certainly reduce economic growth. On the contrary, it might be good for Japan's overcrowded cities and overburdened infrastructure.

**Meaning**

**Better:**

- a) Japan's shrinking working age population will almost certainly reduce economic growth. However/ On the other hand, it might be good for Japan's overcrowded cities and overburdened infrastructure.
- b) Japan's shrinking working age population will almost certainly reduce economic growth. On the other hand, it might be good for Japan's overcrowded cities and overburdened infrastructure.
- c) Although Japan's shrinking working age population will almost certainly reduce economic growth, it might be good for Japan's overcrowded cities and overburdened infrastructure.

*NOT whereas/ in contrast*

3. Latin American countries are often deeply divided. Because the indigenous people have never really gained equal rights.

**Grammar (subordinator used instead of conjunctive adverb)**

**Better:**

- a) Latin American countries are often deeply divided because the indigenous people have never really gained equal rights.
- b) Because/ As/ Since the indigenous people have never really gained equal rights, Latin American countries are often deeply divided.
- c) Latin American countries are often deeply divided. This is because/ One reason for this is that the indigenous people have never really gained equal rights.
- d) Latin American countries are often deeply divided due to the indigenous people never having really gained equal rights.
- e) Indigenous people have never really gained equal rights. For this reason, Latin American countries are often deeply divided.

4. There are many reasons why the number of temporary positions is increasing. For example, globalisation.

**Grammar (sentence fragment)****Better:**

- a) There are many reasons why the number of temporary positions is increasing. One example (of this) is globalisation.
- b) There are many reasons why the number of temporary positions is increasing, for example/for instance/ e.g./ such as/ including globalisation.

*NOT Examples include*

5. There are many positive effects of this policy on the poor people of today. And, it will help future generations.

**Grammar (coordinating conjunction used instead of a conjunctive adverb)****Better:**

- a) There are many positive effects of this policy on the poor people of today, and it will help future generations.
- b) There are many positive effects of this policy on the poor people of today. Furthermore, it will help future generations.
- c) There are many positive effects of this policy on the poor people of today. In addition, it will help future generations.

*NOT Nevertheless/ Nonetheless*

6. The original research left several important questions unanswered, therefore, we also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.

**Grammar (punctuation)****Better:**

- a) The original research left several important questions unanswered, so we also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.
- b) Because the original research left several important questions unanswered, we also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.
- c) The original research left several important questions unanswered. We therefore also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.
- d) The original research left several important questions unanswered. For this reason, we also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.

*NOT Thus, ... NOT So,...*

7. This essay will look at three advantages of teaching other subjects in a second language: firstly, reinforcement of the subject content; secondly, efficient use of limited classroom time; and at last, student motivation.

**Meaning****Better:**

- a) This essay will look at three advantages of teaching other subjects in a second language: firstly, reinforcement of the subject content; secondly, efficient use of limited classroom time; and finally, student motivation.
- b) This essay will look at three advantages of teaching other subjects in a second language: firstly, reinforcement of the subject content; secondly, efficient use of limited classroom time; and lastly, student motivation.
- c) This essay will look at three advantages of teaching other subjects in a second language: firstly, reinforcement of the subject content; secondly, efficient use of limited classroom time; and last of all, student motivation.

*NOT at the end/ in the end*

8. This essay will look at three major reasons for deforestation in Southeast Asia. At first, I will describe trends in domestic use of wood over the last thirty years and its impact on local forests.

**Meaning**

**Better:**

- a) This essay will look at three major reasons for deforestation in Southeast Asia. First/ First of all/ Firstly, I will describe trends in domestic use of wood over the last thirty years and its impact on local forests.

9. Despite people know that detergents cause harm to the environment, their use continues to rise.

**Grammar**

**Better:**

- a) Despite the fact that people know that detergents cause harm to the environment, their use continues to rise.  
b) Despite people knowing that detergents cause harm to the environment, their use continues to rise.  
c) Despite widespread knowledge of the harm detergents cause to the environment, their use continues to spread.

10. He told us he had passed his driving test; indeed, he had failed.

**Meaning**

**Better:**

- a) He told us he had passed his driving test; in (actual) fact, he had failed.  
b) He told us he had passed his driving test; in reality, he had failed.  
c) He told us he had passed his driving test; actually, he had failed.  
d) He told us he had passed his driving test; he had, in fact, failed.

*In fact used to contradict previous statement.*

*Indeed used to reinforce previous statement. (Shakespeare was a great playwright; indeed, many consider him the greatest ever.)*

*Always check a dictionary for full details.*

<http://home.ku.edu.tr/~doregan/Writing/Cohesion.html> (good list of transition words)

**Task 2: Complete this comparison and contrast paragraph with appropriate discourse markers (there may be more than one correct answer).**

French and American business managers have decidedly different management styles. French meetings, **1 for example**, are long and rambling and rarely end on time. **2 Furthermore**, meetings often end without closure. Americans, **3 on the other hand**, make an effort to start and stop a meeting on time, and American business meetings typically end with decisions and action plans. Another difference involves documentation. Americans adore documentation; they have a procedure manual for everything. The French, **4 in contrast**, think this is childish. French managers find it difficult to stick to a schedule, **5 but** American managers are intolerant of delays. **6 In addition**, the French prefer to work alone, whereas Americans like to work in teams. Another major difference in management style is that in French companies, authority comes from the top; French managers do not share information with subordinates and make decisions with little participation by employees beneath them. In American companies, **7 however**, top managers share information and frequently solicit input from subordinates.