

Linking Words for Speaking

The list below are the most usual linking words and phrases to use in speaking.

Linking Words for Speaking

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| Adding more information and also as well as Another reason is.... | Time Phrases now at the moment at present right now these days nowadays in the past before then at that time years ago when I was younger | Causes and Solutions I guess it's because The main reason is... It was caused by... Because.... I suppose the best way to deal with this problem is I reckon the only answer is to The best way to solve this is |
| Expressing ideas I think one important thing is I guess one difference is ... I suppose the main difference between X and Y is that..... | Giving Examples For example, <u>FULL SENTENCE</u> For instance, <u>FULL SENTENCE</u> such as.... <i>Noun</i> like..... <i>Noun</i> | Being Clear You use these simple, natural expression to explain your point again more clearly or get your answer back on track. What I mean is What I want to say is As I was saying |
| Contrasting and concessions But, on the other hand, while, although | | |

Examples of Linking Words in Speaking

Look at the following questions and answers. See what linking words are contained in the answers.

Q. Do you eat much fruit?

A. Yes, I do. I love tropical fruit like mangoes and pineapples.

Comments: We would not use "for example" in this type of sentence which relates to our everyday life.

Q. Do you think fast food is bad?

A. Yes, I do. If it is eaten too often, it can cause problems such as heart disease or diabetes. Also, it can lead to weight problems which are really common nowadays.

Comments: You could use "such as" or "for example" in this sentence because the content is more serious. Please note that we don't use "furthermore" or "in addition" for speaking, instead we use "also" or "and".

Q. Do children play similar games today that they played in the past?

A. No, I don't think they do. Before, children used to play simple games like hide and seek or they used to play with simple handmade toys. But, these days, kids tend to prefer computer games and their toys are battery operated.

Comments: This answer contained time phrases for the past and present "before" and "these days". It also had an example "like". "Like" is the main example linking word for speaking and can be repeated again and again. This answer also uses a contrasting linking word "but". "But" is the main contrasting linking word in speaking and can be repeated many times.

Mistakes with Linking Words in Speaking

The example below will help you understand how not to answer a question with linking words.

Q. Do you like going out with friends?

A. Yes, I do. Firstly, it gives me a chance to relax. Secondly, I can catch up on their news. Last but not least, it allows me the opportunity to visit new places.

Comments: The method of linking is too formal. It is inappropriate for Speaking Exam but great for a Writing exam 😊

See below what the answer should be:

A. Yes, I do. It's great being able to chill out and catch up with their news. Also we often go out to new places which I really enjoy.