

Prepare for {IELTS}

Video Lessons





VOCABULARY FOR IELTS

HOW TO USE  
LINKING WORDS  
PART 2

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# WHAT YOU WILL LEARN?

- What are **LINKING WORDS**?
- *Why should you use* **LINKING WORDS**?
- **LINKING WORDS** for various purposes
- **LINKING WORDS** to give reasons
- **LINKING WORDS** to describe purpose
- **LINKING WORDS** to introduce a topic/point
- **LINKING WORDS** to give clarification
- **LINKING WORDS** to give emphasis
- **LINKING WORDS** to describe level
- **LINKING WORDS** to summarise
- Mistakes **IELTS** candidates make with **LINKING WORDS**
- Practice

# WHAT ARE LINKING WORDS?

**Words and phrases which you include to connect different sentences or ideas.**

**Examples:**

**First and foremost,**

**However,**

**In addition,**

**Nevertheless,**

**In summary,**

**Concerning**



# WHEN SHOULD YOU USE LINKING WORDS?

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# WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO DESCRIBE REASONS:

- **Because of** the increased number of wars and civil conflicts, there has been a huge rise in the number of refugees seeking safety.
- Significant numbers of people from rural areas have re-located to cities **because** work in the countryside is so scarce.
- Most job-seekers these days use the internet to help them find work **since** this is by far the most effective and efficient way of getting a job.
- A great number of workers these days report feeling very dissatisfied, **on account of the fact that** salaries are low and working conditions poor.

# WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO DESCRIBE REASONS:

- **As** so many politicians have been accused of corruption over recent years, confidence in their ability to govern has eroded.
- It is believed that, **owing to** unpredictable weather patterns, growing crops in many regions is becoming trickier.
- **Due to** the process of globalisation, there appears to be significant downward pressure on wages and an increase in unemployment in many sectors.

# WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO DESCRIBE PURPOSE:

- Parents sometimes pay huge amounts of money to send their children to private schools, **so as** to give them the best chance of doing well in life.
- It is not uncommon for students to cheat in exams **in order to** get as high a grade as possible.
- Many businesses spend an excessive amount of money on the furniture and décor within their headquarters, **with the aim/ purpose/ intention of** impressing potential clients.
- Large companies often make donations to charities **so that** members of the public associate the company or its brand with the ideas of generosity and caring.
- Many adults who are in full-time employment enrol onto online courses **to** improve their promotion prospects.



# WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE A NEW TOPIC/POINT:

- **As regards** the economy, most governments have limited aims, merely hoping to keep unemployment and inflation as low as possible.
- **With regard/regards to** nutrition, most of us are extremely poorly informed and need educating about what we should and should not eat.
- Life expectancy in most cities is lower than in affluent areas of the countryside. **Turning to** quality of life, most studies also suggest that those in rural areas are in a better situation.
- **When** adults are surveyed about their lives, they often claim to be relatively happy. **Concerning** the future, the majority of them have more hopes than fears and worries.
- **As far as** the future **is concerned**, most of us prefer to be optimistic.

# WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE CLARIFICATION:

- **Allowing cars to drive through city centres clearly contributes to poor air quality. In other words,** letting motor vehicles use our urban areas makes it more difficult for city-dwellers to breathe and probably leads to early deaths.
- **Academic studies have found that when given the opportunity to cheat in exams, most youngsters will take it. To put it another way,** schoolchildren are, on the whole, not particularly honest.
- **Some of the world's major cities are extremely vulnerable because when rainfall levels are low they scarcely have enough water for their populations. To put it in a different way,** some large urban centres could actually run out of water in the foreseeable future.
- **Rises in temperature mean that several species are under threat. To clarify,** unless a solution can be found, many animal groups including iconic large mammals could soon become extinct.

# WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE EMPHASIS:

- Many are of the opinion that capital punishment is wrong. **The most compelling evidence is** probably that rates of serious crimes such as murder do not appear to be lower in countries with the death penalty than in those without it.
- Being overweight clearly affects individuals in a number of ways. **A point often overlooked is that** obesity can sometimes be a response to the difficulties people have faced. There is a proven link between suffering from mental and emotional illnesses and putting on weight.
- Homelessness affects a significant proportion of the population, even in affluent countries. **A point worth emphasising/ mentioning/ repeating/ reiterating is that** homelessness can happen to almost anybody.
- Debt is a terrible issue which can cause immense suffering to those who do not have enough money to pay what they owe. **Another key point to emphasise/ mention/ note is that** debt is responsible for a great deal of family and social breakdown.

# WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO DESCRIBE THE LEVEL:

- Bullying and truancy can be serious problems in some schools, **especially** in those where the staff are poorly-qualified or inexperienced.
- **Specifically** for students who struggle with more academic subjects, studying painting and the performing arts can lead to real progress and development.
- Students need to understand many aspects of nutrition and food science. **In particular**, they need to be aware of the strategies which can be used to avoid a poor diet.
- **In general**, people have an ambivalent attitude towards advertising. They find individual adverts quite entertaining but, at the same time, recognise them as manipulative and exploitative.
- **Generally speaking**, those living in Third World countries oppose foreign aid. They would usually prefer wealthier governments to invest in their countries, giving them the tools to grow instead of giving them charity.
- **In general terms**, the number of immigrants has shot up recently, although some categories - such as those seeking refugee status - have not changed much.

# WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUMMARISE:

- **In conclusion**, it is clear that reducing the level of obesity would have only a positive effect. There would be no negative consequences whatsoever.
- **In summary**, it seems abundantly clear that allowing young children to watch television programmes which contain violence is wrong. They should be protected from this kind of offensive material until they are adults. It could have a hugely detrimental effect on their emotional and cognitive development if they are subjected to on-screen violence.
- **To sum up**, it is evident that unless we tackle issues surrounding climate change as a matter of urgency, we will face dire consequences.
- **To conclude**, I strongly oppose the use of capital punishment in all circumstances. As far as I am concerned, it is ineffective and dehumanising.

# WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUMMARISE:

- **In the final analysis,** it seems fair to say that private education should be permitted; anyone wishing to pay for their child's learning should be entitled to.
- **All things considered,** I would argue that all zoos, circuses and aquatic parks should be closed immediately unless they can clearly demonstrate a commitment to animal welfare.
- **Having weighed up all the arguments,** I am convinced that men and women should receive equal pay under all circumstances.
- **After having considered this matter in detail,** I have reached the conclusion that sending young offenders to prison is entirely inappropriate.
- **On balance,** I believe that democracy is probably the best political system available.
- **On the whole,** I disapprove of television broadcasters screening violent images on their news bulletins.



# WHAT MISTAKES DO IELTS CANDIDATES MAKE WITH LINKING WORDS?

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# MISTAKES MADE BY IELTS CANDIDATES WITH LINKING WORDS

- **Using the wrong word**
- **Overuse**
- **Informality** – **And** and **But**
- **Cause and effect** - **Because**
- **Punctuation** – **commas** and **semi-colons**



# USING THE WRONG WORD

**Many students use the wrong word. You need to decide if you want to add information, give a list of arguments, talk about a result, describe a contrast, give an example or summarise.**

# USING THE WRONG WORD: EXAMPLE

- **This is incorrect:** It is my fervently-held view that smartphones should be allowed in the classroom. **In addition**, this policy would have to be implemented with care because some learners might take advantage of the situation and use their devices to play games while the teacher was talking.
- **This is much better:** It is my fervently-held view that smartphones should be allowed in the classroom. **Nevertheless**, this policy would have to be implemented with care because some learners might take advantage of the situation and use their devices to play games while the teacher was talking.

# OVERUSE

- **Many candidates overuse linking words. It is not necessary to start every sentence with a linking phrase. If ideas are connected logically, linking words are not always necessary or a good idea.**

# OVERUSE: EXAMPLE

- **This is weak:** There are several reasons why obesity is on the rise. **Firstly**, many individuals have a sedentary lifestyle. **In addition**, the quantity of junk food consumed is astronomical. **Furthermore**, only a small proportion of people regularly exercise. **Finally**, it seems that there is far less social pressure on adults to maintain a healthy body weight. **For instance**, in North America it is considered acceptable these days to be overweight. **However**, there are still parts of the world where being fat is seen as negative.
- **This is stronger:** There are several reasons why obesity is on the rise. Many individuals have a sedentary lifestyle and the quantity of junk food consumed is astronomical. **Furthermore**, only a small proportion of people regularly exercise and it seems that there is far less social pressure on adults to maintain a healthy body weight. In North America it is considered acceptable these days to be overweight. **However**, there are still parts of the world where being fat is seen as negative.

# INFORMALITY

Many students use *And* and *But* at the beginning of the sentence. These are very informal. Instead of *And* you can start your sentence with *In addition* or *Additionally*. Instead of *But* you can start your sentence with *However* or *Nevertheless*.

# INFORMALITY: EXAMPLE

- **This is incorrect:** One of the effects of climate change has been a vast reduction in rainfall. **But** locals have managed to introduce modern irrigation techniques to tackle this problem. **And** grants from international organisations have allowed them to dig deeper wells and access more water.
- **This is better:** One of the effects of climate change has been a vast reduction in rainfall. **However,** locals have managed to introduce modern irrigation techniques to tackle this problem. **Additionally,** grants from international organisations have allowed them to dig deeper wells and access more water.

# CAUSE AND EFFECT: BECAUSE

Many students start sentences with *Because*. This is possible but complicated and generally not a good idea. It is much better to put *because* in the middle of the sentence. This means that you put it after the result and before the cause. For example: *The government has increased taxes on alcohol because the problem of drunkenness was becoming more serious.*

# CAUSE AND EFFECT: BECAUSE EXAMPLE

- **This is incorrect:** **Because** *the government has increased taxes on alcohol.*
- **This is incorrect:** **Because** *the government has increased taxes on alcohol the problem of drunkenness was becoming more serious.*
- **This is better:** *The government has increased taxes on alcohol* **because** *the problem of drunkenness was becoming more serious.*
- **This is better:** **Because** *the problem of drunkenness was becoming more serious, the government has increased taxes on alcohol.*



# PUNCTUATION

Many students forget to put a comma after a linking word which starts the sentence. Most linking words and phrases at the beginning of a sentence are followed by a comma. However, as with most rules in English, there are a few exceptions! You should remember that *Although, Even though, While/Whilst, In spite of/Despite, Owing to/Due to* and *Because of/As a result of* do not usually need a comma. You should also remember that most linking words can follow a semi-colon (;).

# PUNCTUATION: EXAMPLE

- **This is incorrect:** There are several reasons why cyber-terrorism should worry us. **Firstly** it can lead to our personal information being stolen. **Secondly** it might lead to serious problems with infrastructure. **Finally** it can force governments to introduce laws which restrict individual freedoms.
- **This is better:** There are several reasons why cyber-terrorism should worry us. **Firstly,** it can lead to our personal information being stolen. **Secondly,** it might lead to serious problems with infrastructure. **Finally,** it can force governments to introduce laws which restrict individual freedoms.

# WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?

- **Study the language in this lesson**
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