

# LINKERS

(COTTON, David and others: Advanced Language Leader, Pearson/Longman)

Linkers (also known as connectors) play an important role in the cohesion of texts (specially written texts), for they are used to connect ideas (which are somehow related) the same way as prepositions (*from, to, in, etc.*) are used to connect concepts (Nouns or V-ing). There are two different kinds of linkers:

1. **CONJUNCTIONS.** We use them to link two sentences or clauses (e.g. *and, when, if*)
2. **ADVERBS AND ADVERBIALS** (Phrases functioning as adverbs). We use them to make a link across two sentences (e.g. *in addition, then, however*).

Linking adverbs are often used in more formal situations than conjunctions. When you link two sentences with adverbials you can use a semi-colon, rather than a full stop. (e.g. *Cuba is a relatively poor country; nevertheless, it has an exemplary healthcare system*)

# DISCOURSE MARKERS

(SWAN, Michael: *Practical English usage*, Oxford)

Some words and expressions are used to show how discourse is constructed. They usually come at the beginning of a clause.

- Show the connection between what a speaker is saying and what has already been said or is going to be said.
- Make clear the structure of what is being said
- Indicate what speakers think about what they are saying or what others have said

Discourse markers can be classified according to the function they fulfil. There are a very large number of them; it is therefore impossible to give a complete list.

1. Focusing and linking: *As for, with reference to, regarding, as regards...*
2. Balancing contrasting points: *On the one hand* (formal), *on the one hand, whereas, while...*
3. Emphasising a contrast: *However, nevertheless, nonetheless, mind you, still, yet, despite this ...*
4. Concession and counter-argument: *it is true, certainly,.... Even so, nevertheless, but, all the same....*
5. Similarity: *Similarly, In the same way, just as*
6. Contradicting: *On the contrary, quite the opposite*
7. Dismissal of previous discourse: *anyway, anyhow, at any rate, in any case, at least...*
8. Change of subject: *by the way, incidentally, talking of, right, all right, OK, now...*
9. Return to previous subject: *as I was saying* (informal), *to return to the previous point* (formal)...
10. Structuring: *first(ly), first of all, second(ly), third(ly), etc. Lastly, finally, to begin with, to start with, in the first/second/ third place, for one thing* (informal); *for another thing* (informal)
11. Adding: *moreover* (very formal), *furthermore* (formal), *in addition, as well as that, on top of that* (informal), *another thing is* (informal), *what is more, also, besides, in any case,...*
12. Generalising: *On the whole, in general, in all/most/many/some cases, broadly speaking, by and large, to a great extent, to some extent, apart from..., except for...*
13. Giving examples: *For instance, for example, e.g., in particular*
14. Logical consequence: *therefore* (formal), *as a result* (formal), *consequently* (formal), *so, then,...*
15. Making things clear; giving details: *I mean, actually, that is to say, in other words,...*
16. Softening and correcting: *I think, I feel, I reckon* (informal), *I guess* (informal), *in my view/ opinion* (formal), *apparently, so to speak, more or less, sort of* (informal), *kind of* (informal), *well, really, that is to say, at least, I'm afraid, I suppose, or rather, actually, I mean,...*
17. Gaining time to think (gap fillers): *let me see, let's see, well, you know, I don't know, I mean, kind of, sort of,...*
18. Showing one's attitude to what one is saying: *honestly, frankly, no doubt,...*
19. Persuading: *after all, look, look here*
20. Referring to the other person's expectations: *actually, in fact, as a matter of fact, to tell the truth, well,...*
21. Summing up: *in conclusion, to sum up, briefly, in short,...*

# LINKING & LOGICAL CONNECTORS

## Addition & Alternatives

X **and/ or** Y  
X. **In addition, Y/ In addition to X, Y** (Además)  
X. **Similarly, [clause]** (Del mismo modo, asimismo)  
X **also** Y (También)  
X, Y **too/ as well** (También)  
X **as well as Y/ As well as X, [clause]** (Además de X,...)  
X. **Besides, Y or Besides (X), Y** (Además,...)  
X. **Moreover/ Furthermore, Y** (Y además...)  
X. **On top of that, [clause]** [informal] (Encima de eso...)  
X. **In fact/ What is more, Y** (De hecho/ y lo que es más)

**Both X and Y** (Ambos X e Y)  
**Not only X but also Y** (No sólo X, sino también Y)

**Either X or Y** [o (bien) X o (bien) Y]  
**Neither X nor Y** [ni X ni Y]

**So + Aux.+ Pronoun [So do I]** (Y yo también)  
**Neither + Aux.+ Pronoun** (Y yo tampoco)

## Reason (cause) & Result (consequence)

X **because** Y (porque)  
**Because of X, Y** (a causa de)  
**Due to X, Y / Owing to X, Y** (debido a) [formal]  
X, **since** [clause] (ya que) [formal]  
**As X, Y [clause]** (puesto que)  
X, **for** Y [clause] (Pues)  
  
X, **so** [clause] (Así que)  
X. **As a result, [clause]** [formal] (Como resultado)  
X. **Consequently/ In consequence, Y** (Como consecuencia)  
X. **That's why** [clause] (Esa es la razón por la que)  
X. **For this reason** [clause] (Por esta razón...)  
X. **Then** [clause] (luego)  
X. **Therefore** [clause] [formal] (Por lo tanto)

X...**so** + adj./adv. **that** clause (Tan...que)  
X...**such** + (art) (adj) Noun, **that** [clause] (Tan...que)

## Reference & Focus (announce the subject in advance)

**As for/ as regards X, Y** (En cuanto a/ acerca de...)  
**As far as X is concerned, Y** (En lo que concierne a...)  
**Regarding X, Y** (En lo que respecta a)  
**With regard to X, Y** (Con respecto/ relación a)  
**With reference to X, Y** (Con referencia a...)  
**Talking/ Speaking of/about X, Y** (Hablando de...)

## Sequencers & Organisers

**First of all,...** (Antes que nada)  
**First and foremost** (Primero, y más importante)  
**First(ly),...Second(ly),... Thirdly,...** (En primer lugar,...)  
**Then, ...** (Luego/ después)  
**Next,...** (A continuación)  
**Afterwards,...** (Después)  
**After that/ it/ noun, V-ing** (Después de ...)  
**Later (on),...** (Más tarde)  
  
**Finally, Eventually...** (Finalmente)  
**Last (but not least),...** (Y por último, no menos importante)

## Contrast, balancing contrasting points and counter-arguments

X **but** Y (Pero)  
X **although/ though** Y [*though*, informal] (Aunque)  
X, **yet** [clause] (Aún así)  
X. **Mind you/ Still** [clause] [spoken, informal] (Eso sí, aun así)

**In spite of X, Y** [X= noun, pronoun, -ing] (A pesar de...)  
**Despite X, Y** [X= noun, pronoun, -ing] (A pesar de...)  
**[Despite/ In spite] of the fact that** [clause] (A pesar de que)

X. **However, Y** [registro más formal] (Sin embargo)  
X. **Nevertheless/ Nonetheless, Y** [formal] (No obstante)  
X. **Even so, Y** (Aún así...)

X. **In contrast, [clause]** (Por el contrario)  
X. **On the other hand, [clause]** (Por otra parte)  
X. **All the same, [clause]** (De todas formas/ con todo)  
X. **Anyway, [clause]** (En cualquier caso)

**While/ Whilst/ Whereas X, [clause]** (Mientras/ En tanto que)  
**(While) Some X, others** [clause] (Mientras unos X, otros Y)  
**Even though/ if X,** (Incluso si/ Aún si X, Y)

## Purpose

X **to** Y (Y= verb; infinitive of purpose) (para)  
X **for** Y (Y=noun, pronoun, gerund) (para)

X **in order (not) to** [verb] [formal] (para, con la finalidad de)  
X **so as (not) to** [verb] [formal] (de forma que)

X **in order that** [clause] (para, con la finalidad de)  
X **so that** [clause] (de forma que)  
X **in case** [clause] (por si acaso, en caso de que)

## Similarity & Comparison

X...**more...than** Y/ X adj/adv-**ER... than** Y  
X ...**less... than**...Y  
X ...(**not**) **as** + adj./adv. + **as** Y (Tan...como)  
(X) **the same as** Y (Lo mismo que)  
(X) **different from** Y (Diferente de)  
X. **Similarly/in the same way, Y** (De igual modo, ...)  
**Just as** X, [clause] (Así como, de la misma manera que...)

**Like**+noun, [clause] (Del mismo modo que,)  
**Unlike** + noun, [clause] (A diferencia de,)

## Time

(**Just**) before/ after X, Y (Justo antes de que)  
(**Immediately/ Soon**) after/ before X, Y (No mucho después de que.../antes de que...)  
X. **Afterwards/ after that, [clause]** (Después de ello,...)  
X. **Subsequently, [clause]** (Posteriormente,...)  
**Once** X, [clause] (Una vez que...)  
X. [Some time] **later, [clause]** (Tiempo después,...)  
X (not) **till/ until** Y or **Until** X, Y (Hasta que...)  
**When/ While/ Whilst** X, [clause] (Cuando/ Mientras...)  
X. **Meanwhile/ At the same time, [clause]** (Al mismo tiempo)  
X **since** Y (Desde que...)