

Essential Connectors & Linkers for Intermediate English Learners

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If you want to improve your writing skills, you must use **connectors**. These, also called **linkers**, **connectives** or **linking words**, are the *glue* that holds your sentences together. A text wouldn't be a proper text if we didn't use connectors appropriately. However, this is one of the things that lower-intermediate and intermediate English students struggle with most. Sometimes, they don't know an appropriate one to use or they don't know how to use it properly. For this reason, in this post, we will go over some **essential connectors** which are simply perfect for intermediate English learners. I have divided them into 3 groups: **reason, purpose and result; contrast, and addition.**

Reason, purpose and result connectors

- ***because (of), as, since***

We use these three linking words to **give a reason for something**. “Because” is more common than “as” and “since”.

*“She didn’t tell him **because/as/since** she was afraid to.”*

We use “because of” when the reason is a **noun**, not a sentence.

*“Jack knew Laura **because of** his brother.”*

*“We didn’t recognise him **because of** the sunglasses.”*

- **So and therefore**

We use “so” and “therefore” when we **give the result of something**. “So” is usually in the middle of a sentence, whereas “therefore” usually appears at the beginning and followed by a comma.

*“I’m really tired **so** I won’t go out tonight.”*

*“I’m really tired. **Therefore**, I won’t go out tonight.”*

- **To and in order to**

We use “to” and “in order” to when we **explain why we do something, the purpose**. They are always followed by an infinitive.

*“I have joined an academy **to learn** English.”*

*“I’ve joined an academy **in order to learn** English.”*

We can also answer a Why...? question using “to” or “in order to”.

*“Why have you joined an academy? **To/In order to learn** English.”*

Contrast connectors

- **But, although and though**

These linking words **connect two contrasting ideas** and are followed by a clause (pronoun/noun + verb). “But” is normally in the middle of a sentence, preceded by a comma, while “although/though” can go in the middle and at the beginning.

*“The hotel was excellent, **but** the food was not good.”*

*“The hotel was excellent **although/though** the food was not good.”*

*“**Although/though** the food was not good, the hotel was excellent.”*

- **In spite of / despite**

“In spite of” / “despite” are used to **contrast two ideas**. These connectors are followed by a noun or an -ing phrase; never by a pronoun/noun + verb. They can be used either at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. You can find more information in [this post](#) and [here](#).

*“The hotel was excellent **despite** the food being bad/the bad food.”*

*“The hotel was excellent **in spite of** the food being bad/the bad food.”*

*“**Despite** the food being bad/the bad food, the hotel was excellent.”*

*“**In spite of** the food being bad/the bad food, the hotel was excellent.”*

- **However**

“However” is a word which **connects two different contrasting sentences**. It’s normally used at the beginning of a sentence and should be followed by a comma.

*“The hotel was excellent. **However**, the food was awful.”*

*“People tend to put on weight in middle age. **However**, gaining weight is not inevitable”*

Addition connectors

- **Also, too, in addition, moreover**

We use these linking words to add more information to something we have said.

“Too” normally goes at the end and is used in positive sentences. “Also” (as a sentence adverb), “in addition” and “moreover” usually go at the beginning.

*“Buying car is a long-term commitment. **Also**, a car is very expensive to run.”*

*“Buying car is a long-term commitment. **In addition**, a car is very expensive to run.”*

*“Buying car is a long-term commitment. **Moreover**, a car is very expensive to run.”*

*“Buying car is a long-term commitment. A car is very expensive to run, **too**.”*

All these words will definitely be essential in your writings for Preliminary (PET) or First (FCE), so make sure you know how to use them properly. Also, if you're interested in this topic, I suggest going for blogs like this one where you can find plenty more connectors and explanations.