



CELTESTPIP

Linking Words List

Connectors in English with examples, grammar rules and the mistakes to avoid



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How to use this list

Linking words show how one idea connects to the next: adding, contrasting, giving a reason, showing a result, giving an example or putting things in order.

Three rules for this list:

1. Learn the grammar group of each word, not just its meaning. The group tells you what comes after it.
2. Pick five or six from each table and use them until they feel natural. Fifty words you only recognize will not help you.
3. Use one where your idea changes direction. Leave it out where the next sentence simply continues.

The three types of linking words

Type	Examples	What follows
Joins two parts of one sentence	and, but, so, because, although, even though, while, whereas	a full clause: "because it rained"
Starts a new sentence	however, therefore, as a result, in addition, for example, on the other hand	a full sentence, after a period or semicolon: "However, it rained."
Comes before a noun or -ing	despite, in spite of, because of, due to, as well as	a noun or -ing: "despite the rain", "despite being late"

Linking words by meaning

Tags: **S** = sounds natural in speaking and friendly emails. **F** = formal, best in essays and formal emails. No tag = fine anywhere.

Adding

Word	Example
and	The office is bright and quiet.
also	It also has a parking lot.
too (S)	My sister is coming too.
as well as	She speaks French as well as English.
on top of that (S)	It's cheap. On top of that, it's close to work.
in addition (F)	In addition, the plan covers dental care.
besides	Besides, the rent is lower.
furthermore, moreover (F)	Furthermore, the new schedule reduces overtime.

Contrasting

Word	Example
but	The car is old, but it runs well.
however	The car is old. However, it runs well.
although, even though	Although the car is old, it runs well.
while, whereas	My brother loves winter, whereas I prefer summer.
despite, in spite of	Despite its age, the car runs well.
on the other hand	The house is big. On the other hand, it needs repairs.
still, though (S)	It's old. It runs well, though.
nevertheless (F)	The budget is tight. Nevertheless, the project will go ahead.

Cause

Word	Example
because	I called because I was worried.
since, as	Since you're free on Friday, let's meet then.
because of, due to	The game was cancelled because of the rain.

Result

Word	Example
so	It was late, so we took a taxi.
that's why (S)	I live far away. That's why I drive.
therefore (F)	The form was incomplete. Therefore, it was returned.
as a result	Prices rose. As a result, sales fell.

Giving examples

Word	Example
for example, for instance	Some sports are cheap. For example, running needs only shoes.
such as	Winter sports, such as skating, are popular here.
like (S)	Things like groceries cost more now.

Order and time

Word	Example
first, second, finally	First, check the date. Second, fill in your address. Finally, sign the form.
then, next, after that	Then, we had lunch. After that, we left.
meanwhile	I cooked. Meanwhile, my son set the table.

Summing up

Word	Example
overall	Overall, it was a good year.
in short	In short, I recommend it.
to sum up, in conclusion (F)	To sum up, the new plan saves time and money.

Use five of these in a real email, free with an account: [Writing Task 1 practice](#), with instant AI feedback.

However, although or despite?

Word	Sentence shape	Example
although / even though	Although + clause, clause	Although the store was busy, we found a cashier.
however	Sentence. However, sentence.	The store was busy. However, we found a cashier.
despite / in spite of	Despite + noun or -ing, clause	Despite the crowd, we found a cashier.
despite the fact that	Despite the fact that + clause, clause	Despite the fact that the store was busy, we found a cashier.

Same idea for cause: **because** + clause ("because it snowed"), **because of / due to** + noun ("because of the snow").

Comma rules

Situation	Rule	Example
However, therefore, for example at the start	comma after	However, the price went up.
However in the middle	commas on both sides	The price, however, went up.
However joining two sentences	semicolon before, comma after	I booked early; however, the price went up.
But or so joining two sentences	comma before	I booked early, but the price went up.
Because or although at the start	comma after the first clause	Because I booked early, I paid less.
Because in the middle	usually no comma	I paid less because I booked early.

Watch for the comma splice: "I booked early, however the price went up" is wrong in formal writing.

Mistakes to avoid

Wrong	Right
Although it was raining, but we went out.	Although it was raining, we went out.
Despite of the rain, we went out.	Despite the rain, we went out.
Despite it was raining, we went out.	Although it was raining, we went out.
Because of I was sick, I stayed home.	Because I was sick, I stayed home.
I was tired, however I finished.	I was tired. However, I finished.
In the other hand, it is expensive.	On the other hand, it is expensive.
Beside, the rent is cheaper.	Besides, the rent is cheaper.
"Moreover, I'd love to borrow your ladder." (to a neighbour)	"Also, could I borrow your ladder?"

Overuse is a mistake too. If every sentence starts with a linking word, the writing sounds memorized. Using one or two per paragraph, varied, reads naturally.

Linking words on the CELPIP test

CELPIP rates Writing in four areas: Content/Coherence, Vocabulary, Readability and Task Fulfillment. In our words, Readability is about how easy your writing is to follow, and connectors and transitions are one of the things CELPIP looks at there, with paragraphing, grammar and sentence structure, and spelling and punctuation. In Speaking there is no separate connector item, but organizing your ideas counts, and simple linking words make your organization easy to hear.

Before and after (a Writing Task 1 email to a community centre)

Before

"I go to the evening yoga class. The time changed to 5:30. I cannot come now. I finish work at 6. I would like the old time back."

After

"I have attended the evening yoga class for two years. However, since the start time moved to 5:30, I have not been able to come because I finish work at 6. Several other members are in the same situation, so I would like to ask whether the 7 o'clock class could return."

Write your own version and see how your Readability is rated: [Writing Task 1 practice](#) and [Writing Task 2 practice](#), first practice set free with an account, up to three AI-scored tries.

Practice

Choose the right word. Answers at the bottom.

1. ___ the traffic, I arrived on time. (Although / Despite)
2. The library was closed. ___, I studied at home. (However / Therefore)
3. I like my apartment, ___ the kitchen is small. (but / however)
4. We stayed inside ___ the heat. (because / because of)
5. ___ I was nervous, the interview went well. (Even though / In spite of)
6. Bring something warm, ___ a jacket or a sweater. (such as / however)
7. I've finished the report. ___, I've booked the meeting room. (Also / On the other hand)
8. She studied every evening; ___, she passed easily. (as a result / because)

Answers: 1. Despite 2. Therefore 3. but 4. because of 5. Even though 6. such as 7. Also 8. as a result

CELTESTPIP, Linking Words in English: List, Examples and Free PDF (the online version of this list). Writing rating areas: CELPIP Writing Performance Standards, celpip.ca, described here in our own words. Written by Matthew Zare, CELPIP Instructor. CELTESTPIP is an independent preparation platform and is not affiliated with Paragon Testing Enterprises or CELPIP.

Practise in the real test format

Every CELPIP part on CELTESTPIP has a free first practice set once you sign up. Write the first Writing Task 1 email and see which of these linking words you actually used. In Writing and Speaking, that first set gives you up to three AI-scored tries with instant feedback.

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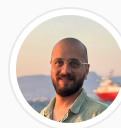
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Full guide at celtestpip.com/learn/linking-words-in-english

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Matthew is a CELPIP teacher on the CELTESTPIP team and the voice of most of our YouTube lessons. He focuses on helping candidates reach the CLB level their immigration or PR file needs.

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