ENGLISH WRITING · DEEP DIVE

Linking Words and Discourse Markers

The words that join one idea to the next, and the grammar that decides whether you need a comma, a full stop or nothing at all before 'however', 'although' and 'despite'.

B1 · linking words · connectors · punctuation

conjunction

Joins two clauses in one sentence.

but, so, because, although

I was tired, but I finished the work.

sentence adverb

After a full stop, with a comma after it.

However, Therefore, Moreover

I was tired. However, I finished the work.

preposition

Takes a noun or an -ing form, not a clause.

despite, because of, due to

Despite my tiredness, I finished the work.

MEANING	+ CLAUSE / + NOUN	EXAMPLE
contrast	although · despite / in spite of	**Although** it rained… / **Despite** the rain…
reason	because · because of / due to	**because** it rained / **because of** the rain
result	so · therefore (after a full stop)	It rained. **Therefore**, we stayed in.
adding	and · as well as + noun / -ing	**As well as** teaching, she writes.

1 Choose the connector

Write although, despite, because, because of, so, however or therefore.

1 _____ it was raining, we went out.

2 _____ the rain, we went out.

3 We stayed in _____ it was raining.

4 We stayed in _____ the rain.

5 She was late, _____ we started without her.

6 I was tired. _____ , I finished the work.

7 The road was closed. _____ , we took the train.

8 _____ feeling ill, she went to work.

9 The match was cancelled _____ the snow.

10 _____ he is rich, he is not happy.

2 Adding, examples and order

Write one word or phrase: as well as, such as, e.g., finally, at last, moreover, that, though.

1 _____ teaching, she writes novels.

2 I love countries _____ France and Spain.

3 Bring something warm, _____ a coat.

4 _____ , I would like to thank everyone.

5 The bus came _____ , after an hour!

6 The results were poor. _____ , nobody had checked.

7 It was so cold _____ the pipes froze.

8 It was raining. We went out, _____ .

3 Spot the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence on the line.

1 Despite of the rain, we went out.

2 Although it was raining, but we went out.

3 We stayed in because of it was raining.

4 I was tired, however I finished the work.

5 Despite the weather was bad, we went out.

6 At last, I would like to thank the committee.

Remember One connector per link: Although it rained, we went out (not although … but). And despite, or in spite of, never despite of.

4 A short essay

Write one linking word or phrase in each gap.

Many people work from home now. [1] _____ , this has advantages and disadvantages. [2] _____ working from home saves time, it can be lonely. [3] _____ the lack of contact, some people feel isolated. [4] _____ , it is hard to stop working in the evening. [5] _____ saving time, home workers save money on travel. Some jobs, [6] _____ teaching, cannot be done from home at all. Many companies [7] _____ offer a mix of office and home. [8] _____ , the best choice depends on the person.

5 Clause or noun?

Does each connector take a clause (subject + verb) or a noun / -ing? Write it in the right box.

although · because · even though · while · despite · in spite of · because of · due to

+ clause	+ noun / -ing

Where are the answers?

The answers, with an explanation for each one, are in the LinguaBite app. Open this Deep Dive and scroll to Downloads at the bottom of the article: once you have downloaded this worksheet, its answers appear there after a couple of days, so you do the exercises first. You can choose 1, 2 or 3 days in the app's Settings.

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