

Sentence Connectors for Use in Writing Compositions

(Pay attention to the position of each connector in the following examples!)

To indicate addition and alternatives:

also

You can pay your bills in cash. You can also write a check.

in addition

I have to study this evening. In addition, I have to cook dinner.

furthermore

Pets need nutritious food. Furthermore, they need vaccinations.

moreover

As your professor, I will teach you to write better. Moreover, I will increase your vocabulary.

what is more

The police have found the missing money. What is more, they have arrested the thief.

as well

Mary won the gymnastics competition. She graduated with honors as well.

besides

My sister works full-time at the school cafeteria. Besides this, she is taking 18 credits at school.

in fact

Oregon has a very rainy climate. In fact, it rains there 65% of the time.

As a matter of fact

You can have the rest of this chocolate cake. As a matter of fact, I hope you do. I need to lose weight.

actually

Jennifer has never liked swimming. Actually, she's terrified of water and won't go near it.

on the other hand

I may go dancing this weekend with my friends. On the other hand, I may stay in and finish my paper.

alternatively

You can save this computer program on your hard drive. Alternatively, you can put it on a floppy disc.

To provide examples, clarify or identify:

for example

Allergies to certain insect bites can be fatal. For example, a bee sting can cause shock in some people.

for instance

Some sports often involve injury to the players. Skiing without proper skills, for instance, often leads to broken legs.

especially

Children are easily affected by the media. Violent movies may be especially harmful to them.

in particular

The correct use of punctuation often confuses students. In particular, they find the comma rules difficult to master.

to illustrate

Proper use of the comma takes practice. To illustrate, I have prepared the following three exercises for you.

as an example

Many famous artists have suffered from physical and mental afflictions. As an example, consider the lives of Van Gogh and Gauguin.

namely

A very important problem confronts us today; namely, we need to stop the spread of AIDS.

specifically

I have a question about tenses. Specifically, when should I use the past perfect?

Prof. S. Yoffie

in other words

You can't continue working at such a stressful job. In other words, to improve your health you need a break.

To indicate similarity:

similarly

People cannot survive under water. Similarly, a fish will die if it is taken out of water.

likewise

If you work hard, you will probably pass the test. Likewise, if you waste time, you will probably fail.

in the same way

Speaking a foreign language fluently requires oral practice. In the same way, playing the piano cannot be learned without regular practice.

To indicate contrast or giving in:

however

Some language teachers believe in memorizing dialogues. However, others think that memorization is not as good as engaging in natural conversations with native speakers.

nevertheless

Winning an Olympic Gold Medal requires years of often painful physical training and little time for a social life. Nevertheless, many athletes are willing to go through the struggle in order to win.

nonetheless

I realize that skydiving is dangerous and expensive. Nonetheless, I want to try it.

despite (this)

I am going to have to get up at 4:00 in the morning to catch my plane. Despite this, I probably won't go to bed until midnight.

in spite of (this)

Mary had the worst headache of her life. In spite of this, she went to her daughter's graduation.

To indicate cause and effect:

as a result

Grammar rules sometimes overwhelm and confuse students of English. As a result, many people avoid studying grammar.

consequently

Susan's car broke down on the highway. Consequently, she couldn't arrive on time for her class.

therefore

You will not be informed of the test result until next month. Therefore, it is a waste of time to keep calling the office.

thus

We are in the middle of a severe drought. Thus, the city government has asked us to conserve water whenever possible.

hence

Cats have flexible spines. Hence, they can do many physical maneuvers that people cannot do.

To indicate purpose:

in order to

We need to find out what is causing your pain. In order to understand this, we need to do a series of tests.

with this in mind

Jennifer realized that her job was at a dead end. With this in mind, she went back to college to learn more skills.

For this purpose

The antique table needs refinishing. For this purpose, we are stripping away the old varnish and sanding the wood.