

Boost Free Lessons - Year 8 English

Lesson 5: Linking Devices and Transitions

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Which linking word belongs in the gap, and why?

The trial was expensive. _____, it saved money in the long run.

1. First work out the **relationship** between the two ideas.
2. The first is a drawback and the second is a benefit, so the relationship is a contrast.
3. Choose a contrast linker: *However*, *Nevertheless* or *Even so*.
4. A linker that adds, such as *Furthermore*, would signal the wrong relationship and confuse the reader.

However, because the second idea contrasts with the first.

Worked Example 2

Improve the cohesion of the passage below.

The library closed at four. Students had nowhere to study. The council reopened it until six.

1. Each sentence is correct, but the links between them are left for the reader to work out.
2. Sentence two is a **result** of sentence one, so use *As a result* or *so*.
3. Sentence three is a **response** to sentence two, so use *In response* or *Therefore*.
4. Naming the relationship makes the reasoning visible rather than implied.

Model: The library closed at four, so students had nowhere to study. In response, the council reopened it until six.

Remember: Linking devices name the **relationship** between ideas: adding, contrasting, showing a result, giving an example, or concluding. Choose the linker that matches the relationship you actually mean.



Question 1: Name two linking devices for each purpose below.

1. adding a similar idea

2. showing a contrast

3. showing a result

4. giving an example

5. showing time order

6. emphasising a point

7. conceding a point

8. concluding



Question 2: Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

The breakfast club began as a trial in one classroom. However, demand grew quickly once word spread. As a result, the school extended it to the whole of Year 7. For example, attendance in first period rose sharply within a month. The scheme has been a success.

1. Find two linking devices in the passage.

2. What relationship does **However** signal?

3. What relationship does **As a result** signal?

4. Add a suitable linker to the final sentence.

5. What would be lost if all the linkers were removed?



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Write two sentences joined by a contrast linker.

2. Write two sentences joined by a result linker.

3. Explain why using **however** to add an idea would confuse a reader.

4. Why should a writer avoid starting every sentence with a linker?





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Answers: Linking Devices and Transitions**Question 1**

1. Model: also, furthermore, in addition, moreover
2. Model: however, whereas, on the other hand, nevertheless
3. Model: therefore, as a result, consequently, so
4. Model: for example, for instance, such as
5. Model: first, next, meanwhile, finally
6. Model: indeed, in fact, above all
7. Model: although, admittedly, granted
8. Model: in conclusion, overall, to sum up

Question 2

1. Any two of: **However, As a result, For example.**
2. A contrast with the previous idea.
3. That what follows is caused by what came before.
4. Model: Overall, the scheme has been a success.
5. The reader would still follow the facts but not the reasoning, so the paragraph would read as a list rather than an argument.

Question 3

1. Model response: The team trained every morning. However, they lost the final by a single point.
2. Model response: The rain did not stop for three days. As a result, the river broke its banks.
3. *However* signals a contrast, so a reader expects the opposite of what came before. Using it to add an idea makes the sentence seem to contradict itself.
4. Too many linkers make writing sound mechanical, and the signposts start to draw more attention than the ideas.

