CONNECTORS and LINKERS

What are connectors? Connectors and linkers are basically conjunctive words that are used for connecting elements or ideas present in a sentence, different sentences, paragraphs, or texts. They are divided into two main categories: **conjunctions** and **adverbs**. Broadly speaking, conjunctions and connectors describe the relationship between two statements. These statements can be written without linking words, but often the information can be conveyed more accurately using these words. **Adverbs** are used between two separate sentences**. Conjunctions** grammatically join two clauses (independent or dependent, depending on the conjunction) so that it reads as one sentence.

• **ADVERBS**: They are separated from the previous sentence by "**.**" or "**;**" and followed by "**,**". Or between two "**,**".

"*We knew you were coming; therefore, we arranged a party*"

• **CONJUNCTIONS**: They join both sentences directly.

"*We arranged a party because we knew you were coming*"

Sometimes, the conjunction connector can come at the beginning; then, we separate one sentence from the other with "**,**".

"*As we knew you were coming, we arranged a party*"

Some of these linking connective words can only be followed by a <u>NOUN</u>, a <u>PHRASE</u> or <u>GERUND</u> but never a sentence. In some cases, they are actually used as prepositions: *due to*, *despite*, etc.

There are different types of connectors (adverbs and conjunctions) in English and each of those has a different use. So, how to use connectors? Let's check all of those sentence connectors and the examples:

➤ Adding INFORMATION (ADDITION)

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
and	*y*	- I like eating pizza <u>and</u> vegetables.
also	*también*	- I <u>also</u> like eating them.
too	*también*	- I like eating them <u>too</u>.
as well	*también*	- Do they like eating them <u>as well</u>?
as well as	*además de*	- I like eating pizza <u>as well as</u> vegetables.
moreover *furthermore* *in addition*	*además, es más*	- It seems, <u>moreover</u>, that they were related. - She doesn't like eating any meat. <u>Moreover</u>, she hates raw fish.
		- We can't judge him only by what we have heard; <u>furthermore</u>, we need to look into his motives. - She doesn't like eating any meat. <u>Furthermore</u>, she hates raw fish.
		- We made a previous order. <u>In addition</u>, we want to ask for some more books
besides	*además / aparte de (eso) / excepto*	- I wasn't interested in the talk, <u>besides</u> I was feeling very tired. - No one knows <u>besides</u> you.

in addition to + noun/gerund	*además de*	- Mary love swimming *in addition to* running. - *In addition to* our previous order, we want some more books. - *In addition to* having a baby, they also got married.
apart from	*aparte de*	- I like all kinds of pasta. *Apart from that*, he likes little else.
what's more	*lo que es más, además*	- He loves pasta, and *what's more*, he owns an Italian restaurant.
not only …, but also … * be careful with the inversion	*no solo …, sino también…*	- *Not only* did he hit her, *but* he *also* he killed her. - *Not only* was it raining all day at the wedding *but also* the band was late. - *Not only* will they paint the outside of the house *but also* the inside.
both … and …	*tanto … como….*	- Children like eating *both* pizza *and* chicken. - *Both* Mark *and* Jennifer like reading.
neither … nor …	*ni … ni….*	- My grandmother likes *neither* pizza *nor* chicken. - *Neither* Mark *nor* Jennifer like smoking.
either … or …	*o … o ….*	- We can eat *either* meat *or* fish. - *Either* you go *or* you stay. Make up your mind now!

➢ Expressing CONTRAST or CONCESSION

STRUCTURE	*TRANSLATION*	*EXAMPLES*
but	*pero*	- He hadn't any money, *but* he got a ticket.
however **nevertheless** **nonetheless**	*sin embargo, no obstante*	- He hadn't any money; *however*, he got a ticket. - He spent all his spare money. *However*, he still had his credit card.
		- He hadn't any money; *nevertheless*, he got a ticket. - He spent all his spare money. *Nevertheless*, he still had his credit card.
		- He hadn't any money; *nonetheless*, he got a ticket. - He spent all his spare money. *Nonetheless*, he still had his credit card.
while **whereas**	*mientras que*	- British cars are small *while* American ones are - long. - *While* British cars are small, American ones are long.
		- British cars are small *whereas* American ones - are long. - *Whereas* British cars are small, American ones are long.
unlike	*a diferencia de*	- *Unlike* your mum, hers is more distant and colder.

(al)though + sentence **even though** + sentence	*aunque*	- <u>*Although /Though*</u> he hadn't any money, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>*although /though*</u> he hadn't any money.
		- <u>*Even though*</u> he hadn't any money, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>*even though*</u> he hadn't any money.
in spite of + noun/gerund/pronoun **despite** + noun/gerund/pronoun	*a pesar de*	- <u>*In spite of*</u> {not having any money/having no money}, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>*in spite of*</u> {not having any money/having no money}.
		- <u>*Despite*</u> {not having any money/having no money}, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>*despite*</u> {not having any money/having no money}.
in spite of the fact that + sentence **despite the fact that** + sentence	*a pesar de que*	- <u>*In spite of the fact*</u> that he hadn't any money, he - got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>*in spite of the fact th*</u>at he hadn't got any money.
		- <u>*Despite the fact that*</u> he hadn't any money, he got - a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>*despite the fact that*</u> he hadn't got any money.
on the one hand	*por un lado/una parte*	- <u>*On the one hand*</u>, reading is very enriching.
on the other hand	*por otro lado/otra parte*	- <u>*On the other hand*</u>, it can also be boring when you don't like what you must read.

➢ Giving EXAMPLES

STRUCTURE	*TRANSLATION*	*EXAMPLES*
for example **for instance**	*por ejemplo*	- I like playing sports, <u>*for example*</u>, football, basketball and volleyball.
		- She underwent several illnesses, <u>*for instance*</u>, flu, smallpox and chickenpox.
"**such as**" + noun/gerund "**like**" + noun/gerund	*como*	- I have read authors <u>*such as*</u> Dan Brown, Noah Gordon, Stephenie Meyer and J.K. Rowling. - We all have many home-maintenance tasks, <u>*such as*</u> washing our clothes, cleaning the kitchen, and taking out the garbage.
		- A man <u>*like*</u> him belongs on the stage. - Children are better than adults at many things, <u>like</u> having fun, acting spontaneously, etc.

➤ Expressing PURPOSE or AIM

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
to + infinitive	*para*	- He went <u>to</u> Scotland to learn English. - Ann stayed at home <u>to</u> rest.
in order (not) to + infinitive	*para (no)*	- She came to Spain <u>in order to</u> learn Spanish. - She left China <u>in order not to</u> speak Chinese.
so as (not) to + infinitive	*para (no)*	- She went to France <u>so as to</u> learn French. - She left Brazil <u>so as not to</u> hear Portuguese.
so that + sentence	*para que*	- There is a fire exit <u>so that</u> people will/can leave. - I'm buying some food <u>so that</u> we can/will have the fridge full. - I've lit the fire <u>so that</u> the house will warm. - They'll make an appointment <u>so that</u> we won't have to wait.
for " + gerund (V-ing) (to talk about the purpose or function of a thing, what an object is used for)	*para*	- A knife is used <u>for</u> cutting. - Pencils are <u>for</u> writing and chairs are <u>for</u> sitting.

NOTE: Don't use *for + -ing* to talk about why we do something or to say what is the purpose of our actions.

- *I work hard ~~for improving~~ my English.* ✖
- *I work hard to improve my English.* ✔
- *Turn the TV ~~for watching~~ the news.* ✖
- *Turn the TV on to watch the news.* ✔

➤ Expressing REASON or CAUSE

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
because + sentence	*porque*	- I couldn't go then because I had to study.
since + sentence **as** + sentence	*ya que, como*	- <u>Since</u> there wasn't enough show, they didn't go skiing.
	como	- <u>As</u> I am very busy studying for my exams, I won't go with you.
for + sentence	*ya que, puesto que, pues*	- He isn't allowed to smoke <u>for</u> he is still a kid.
for + gerund (V-ing)	*por*	- They put him in prison <u>for</u> stealing forbidden books.
because of + noun/pronoun **due to** + noun/pronoun	*a causa de, debido a*	- We couldn't go <u>because of</u> the storm.
		- <u>Due to</u> his bad attitude, he lost his job.

➢ **Expressing RESULT or CONSEQUENCE**

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
so + adjective/adverb + *that*	*tan...que*	- We were *so* impatient *that* we couldn't wait for them.
such + (adjective) + noun + *that*	*tan...que*	- They had *such* a big dog *that* nobody dared to go near their house. - They had *such* big dogs *that* nobody went near their house.
so many + plural countable noun + *that*	*tantos/as...que*	- There were *so* many people *that* we couldn't get into the pub.
so much + (singular) uncountable noun + *that*	*tanto/a...que*	- He drank *so* much wine *that* he got drunk.
so	*así pues, así que, por eso*	- The party was boring, *so* I left early.
as a result/consequence of + noun phrase	*como/a consecuencia de*	- *As a result of* the war, the prices of oil and bread went up enormously.
therefore	*por lo tanto, por consiguiente*	- I think, *therefore* I am. - They saved the prize money from the lottery. *Therefore*, they were rich.
thus	*por lo tanto, así, de este modo, por consiguiente*	- It should be applied *thus*. - She refused to go along with it, *thus* provoking her classmates. - I was only 16 and *thus* unable to vote or drive.
for this/that reason	*por esta/esa razón*	- I haven't eaten in 2 days. *For this reason*, I'm hungry.
that's why	*por esta/esa razón, ésa es la razón por la que/cual...*	- I've been ill. *That's why* I didn't call.
consequently	*en consecuencia, como consecuencia, consecuentemente*	- Many of the university subjects available are not taught at high schools, and, *consequently*, they may be unfamiliar.

➢ **SUMMARISING**

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
in conclusion	*para concluir*	*In conclusion*, life is difficult, but funny.
in general	*en general*	*In general*, life generally treats people unfairly.
to sum up	*para resumir, resumiendo*	*To sum up*, being polite and nice is what matters.
to conclude	*para concluir*	*To conclude*, life is a gift we must spend wisely.
in short	*en resumen*	*In short*, treat others like you would like to be treated.

➢ **TIME / SEQUENCING IDEAS**

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
after	después (de)	- *After* I had finished, I went out for a walk.
before	antes (de)	- *Before* we left Europe, we visited Barcelona. - My mom had left *before* I woke up.
while **as**	mientras	- *As/While* I was watching TV, the telephone rang.
when **by the time**	cuando	- *By the time/When* the fire brigade came, the house had been burned
whenever	siempre que, cada vez que	- *Whenever* he leaves the house, he always takes an umbrella - I start singing *whenever* I hear this song - You can come tomorrow or *whenever*
as soon as	tan pronto como	- *As soon as* I get home I will give you a call
until	hasta	- I lived in Japan *until* I moved to Spain
meanwhile **in the meantime**	*mientras tanto*	- I was studying in my room; *meanwhile*, my friends were at the cinema because they didn't have to do the exam. - We'll soon send you the information about the scholarship. *In the meantime*, visit our website to keep yourself updated.
eventually **finally** **in the end** **lastly**	*finalmente*	- *Eventually*, she got a job and moved to Paris - *Finally*, I'd like to thank everyone for coming this evening - *In the end*, he decided to postpone the project.
afterwards **after that** **next** **then** **later**	*después*	- We had tea; *afterwards*, we sat in the garden for a while. - We took a train; *later/next/then*, we went to Spain
suddenly **all of a sudden**	*de repente*	- Yesterday when I was walking in the woods; *suddenly/all of a sudden*, it started to rain heavily.

➢ <u>**Ordering logically YOUR IDEAS**</u>

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
first of all	*antes que nada, [lo] primero [de todo]*	- <u>*First of all*</u>, the aims of my work must be introduced.
first and foremost	*ante todo, lo primero y más importante*	- <u>*First and foremost*</u>, I am thankful for all the people who supported my decision.
in the first place	*en primer lugar*	- <u>*In the first place*</u>, I have to mention the sources I used to get the information.
firstly	*primeramente, en primer lugar*	- <u>*Firstly*</u>, I am going to establish the advantages of a smoke-free environment.
to start with	*para empezar*	- <u>*To start with*</u>, you will say hello and introduce yourself.
in the second place	*en segundo lugar*	- <u>*In the second place*</u>, I will mention why this information is important for me.
secondly	*en segundo lugar*	- <u>*Secondly*</u>, I will mention why this information is important for me.
last but not least	*por último, pero no por ello menos importante*	- <u>*Last but not least*</u>, I want to show my acknowledgement of the vast collaboration of my parents and wife.
finally	*finalmente, por último*	- <u>*Finally*</u>, I want to end by quoting a famous saying: "*Long absent, soon forgotten*"

➢ <u>**Expressing FACTS**</u>

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
as a matter of fact	*de hecho*	- I don't like vegetables; <u>*as a matter of fact*</u>, I never eat them.
in fact	*de hecho*	- I don't like vegetables; <u>in fact</u>, I never eat them.
actually	*en realidad*	- I don't <u>*actually*</u> like vegetables.

➤ Expressing YOUR PERSONAL OPINION:

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
in my opinion/view	*en mi opinión*	- *In my opinion/view*, terrorists should be prosecuted.
from my point of view	*desde mi punto de vista*	- *From my point of view*, serious criminals should be punished according to their crimes they have committed.
{*as/the way* } *I see it*	*a mi modo de ver, tal como yo lo veo, a mi entender/parecer*	- *As I see it*, you are wrong.
as far as I'm concerned	*por lo que a mi respecta*	- *As far as I am concerned*, pet owners are accountable for their pets' behaviour.
I think/feel/believe/guess/consider + (that) + sentence	*pienso, creo, supongo, considero que*	- *I consider* (that) everybody can make their own choices.

➤ Expressing CONDITION

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
if	*si*	- *If* you drink, don't drive.
unless	*a menos que*	- *Unless* you study, you won't pass.
whether … or….	*Si ...o ....*	- I don't know *whether* we'll stay or we'll go home.
as long as *providing that*	*siempre y cuando* *mientras que*	- *As long as* you study, you may pass.
		- She can come *providing that* you sleep in separate rooms.
even if	*aunque*	- *Even if* he started studying now, he wouldn't be ready for the exam tomorrow.