

Connecting ideas in a sentence and
between sentences

A

Some words and phrases (*sentence connectors*) are used to connect one sentence with a previous sentence or sentences. Often (but not always) these go at the beginning of the sentence:

- There was no heating in the building. **As a result**, the workers had to be sent home. (or The workers had to be sent home **as a result**.)

Other words and phrases (*conjunctions*) are used to connect clauses *within* a single sentence:

- **While** I was waiting, I read a magazine.
- I'll be wearing a red jumper **so that** you can see me easily.

We can't use a comma to connect ideas joined by a sentence connector. However, these words and phrases can be used to connect two clauses in one sentence if the clauses are joined with **and**, **but**, **or**, **so**, or a **semi-colon (;)**, **colon (:)**, or **dash (–)**:

- The building was extremely well constructed **and**, **as a result**, difficult to demolish.
- You could fly via Singapore; **however**, this isn't the only way.

<i>type of connection</i>	<i>example sentence connectors</i>	<i>example conjunctions</i>
comparing, contrasting, and indicating that a situation (in the main clause) is unexpected	after all, all the same, alternatively, anyway, by contrast, even so, however (<i>but see D</i>), in any case, in contrast, instead, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand	although, even though, though, whereas, while, yet
reasons and results	as a consequence, as a result, consequently, for one thing, so; hence, in consequence, therefore, thus (<i>the last four are rather formal</i>)	as, because, for, in that, since, insofar as, so, so that
adding information	above all, after all, also, besides, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly, what's more; as well, too (<i>the last two are not used at the beginning of a sentence</i>)	
condition	if not, if so, otherwise	as long as, assuming (that), if, on condition that, provided (that), so long as, supposing (that), unless
time: one event at the same time as another	at that time, at the same time, meanwhile	as, when, whenever, while
time: one event before or after another	after, after that, afterwards, before, before that, earlier, later, previously, soon, subsequently, then	after, as soon as, before, since, until

Note that **after**, **before** and **so** can be both connectors and conjunctions.

B

Even though is a conjunction used to say that a fact doesn't make the rest of the sentence untrue (see also Unit 82B). It connects ideas *within* a sentence:

- **Even though** it was midday, I put on the light.

Even so is a sentence connector used to introduce a fact that is surprising in the context of what was just said. It connects ideas *between* sentences:

- It was midday. **Even so**, I put on the light.

C

However is often used as a sentence connector, but it can also be used –

☆ as an adverb when it is followed by an **adjective**, **adverb**, or **much/many**:

- We just don't have the money to do the work, **however necessary** you think it is.

☆ as a conjunction when it means 'in whatever way':

- **However** she held the mirror, she couldn't see the back of her neck.

87.1 Choose items from (i) and from (ii) to complete these sentences in an appropriate way. Note the punctuation at the ends of the sentences and phrases already given. (A & B)

(i)		(ii)	
alternatively	as long as	everybody had their fair share	you could poison them
for one thing	meanwhile	his face seemed familiar	it's too expensive
otherwise	so that	the rent was paid on time	the street was deserted
while	yet	the volcano continues to erupt	we were on holiday

- Martha cut the cake carefully into slices so that everybody had their fair share.
- A small boy was kicking a ball against a wall;
- I couldn't remember meeting him before,
- A mass evacuation of islanders is taking place.
- A: Why don't you like that new French restaurant? B:
- Karen came down with flu
- My landlady didn't mind me having parties in my room
- One way of getting rid of weeds is to dig them out.

87.2 Underline the correct alternative. (A, B & C)

- Your essay is badly organised and full of spelling mistakes. *Though/ Nevertheless*, it contains some very interesting ideas.
- To the east the trees were left standing, *while/ in contrast* to the west they were cut down.
- I felt guilty about leaving the company *even so/ even though* I knew I had made the right decision.
- The course taught me a lot about jewellery design. *Even though/ Even so*, there is still a lot I need to learn.
- I had expected my mother to be happy with the news. *Instead/ Although* tears came to her eyes and she started to cry.
- Herbs are usually grown in temperate climates, *whereas/ on the other hand* spices are mainly from tropical areas.
- We were very short of money *so/ as a consequence* we had to spend the night on a park bench.
- I turned the ignition, but the car refused to start. *As/ Meanwhile* the lions were getting ever closer.
- She wrote the questions on the blackboard *while/ at the same time* the students copied them into their books.
- Previously/ Before* I went to Australia, I'd never seen a koala.
- Modern farming methods have destroyed the habitat of many birds. *As a result/ So that* their numbers are in decline.
- I'll have to buy some ladders *unless/ if not* I can borrow a pair from Ray.
- I first met Kevin in the 1970s. *At that time/ When* he had long hair and a beard.

87.3 Use your own ideas to complete the sentences. Begin however + adjective/adverb/many/much. (D)

- She is determined to be a successful artist, however difficult it might be to achieve.
-, it is difficult to lose weight without cutting down on the amount you eat.
-, it is important to spend some time apart.
- Professor Malcolm is always happy to spend time with his students,
.....

- 85.2 *Possible sentences are given*
- Imagine you were to inherit a million dollars.
 - Suppose your parents were to tell you they were emigrating to Canada.
 - Supposing Spain were to win the World Cup.
 - Imagine the population of Britain were all Buddhist.

85.3

- even if it were
- even if she were
- as if I were
- as if she were
- even if I were
- as if it were
- even if they were

85.4 *Possible answers*

- I'm not happy about Katie going to Thailand alone. I'd sooner she were going with friends.
- 'If you're unhappy with your new car, why don't you ask for your money back?' 'Well, if only it were as easy as that.'
- I know you haven't got much time, but if I were you I'd have breakfast before you leave.
- Forgetting to wear my shoes to school was embarrassing and I'd rather it were forgotten by my classmates.
- I'm very fond of Sebastian, but I wish he were not so critical of his employees.

85.5

- ...tiredness, as it were, descending...; or ...tiredness descending, as it were, upon her...; or ...tiredness descending upon her, as it were...
- The virus, as it were, hides...; or The virus hides, as it were, behind...; or The virus hides behind healthy cells, as it were...; or ...being attacked, as it were.
- ...Frank, as it were, returned from the grave...; or ...Frank returned, as it were, from the grave...; or ...Frank returned from the grave, as it were...

UNIT 86

86.1

- 2 + d Unless alternative sources of funding are found, the research will not be able to continue.
- 3 + c Unless the roads have changed in that part of town, I'm sure I'll be able to find my way there.
- 4 + a Unless the weather starts improving soon, the farmers will lose their crops.
- 5 + e Unless it's ridiculously expensive, I think I'll buy that painting.

- 6 + f Unless you have been unemployed for six months, you are not entitled to state benefit.

86.2

- 1 Unless the infection is treated/ If the infection isn't treated
- 2 Unless she had gone/ If she hadn't gone
- 3 Unless he was/ If he wasn't
- 4 unless the police can prove/ if the police can't prove
- 5 Unless they were/ If they weren't
- 6 unless Rachel passes/ if Rachel doesn't pass
- 7 unless he's gone/ if he hasn't gone
- 8 Unless you get/ If you don't get
- 9 unless they get/ if they don't get
- 10 unless Louise is at home/ if Louise isn't at home
- 11 unless he's using it/ if he's not using it

86.3

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1 if/ whether | 8 if/ whether |
| 2 whether | 9 whether |
| 3 whether | 10 if/ whether |
| 4 if/ whether | 11 whether |
| 5 whether (or | 12 if/ whether |
| informally 'if') | 13 whether (or |
| 6 whether | informally |
| 7 if/ whether | 'if') |

UNIT 87

87.1

- 2 A small boy was kicking a ball against a wall; otherwise, the street was deserted.
- 3 I couldn't remember meeting him before, yet his face seemed familiar.
- 4 A mass evacuation of islanders is taking place. Meanwhile, the volcano continues to erupt.
- 5 A: Why don't you like that new French restaurant? B: For one thing, it's too expensive.
- 6 Karen came down with flu while we were on holiday.
- 7 My landlady didn't mind me having parties in my room as long as the rent was paid on time.
- 8 One way of getting rid of weeds is to dig them out. Alternatively, you could poison them.

87.2

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Nevertheless | 8 Meanwhile |
| 2 while | 9 while |
| 3 even though | 10 Before |
| 4 Even so | 11 As a result |
| 5 Instead | 12 unless |
| 6 whereas | 13 At that time |
| 7 so | |

87.3 *Example answers are given*

- 2 However hard you might exercise, it is difficult to lose weight without cutting down on the amount you eat.

- 3 However much we enjoy being together, it is important to spend some time apart.
- 4 Professor Malcolm is always happy to spend time with his students, however busy he might be.

UNIT 88

88.1

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| 1 across | 5 across |
| 2 across/ over | 6 across |
| 3 over | 7 across |
| 4 across/ over | 8 over |

88.2

- 1 along/ through
- 2 Across
- 3 through
- 4 across/ over
- 5 over ('all over' is more likely than 'all across' or 'all through')
- 6 along

88.3

- 1 under
- 2 ✓ ('under' is also possible)
- 3 below
- 4 over
- 5 ✓ ('over' is also possible)
- 6 ✓ ('over' is also possible)
- 7 over
- 8 under
- 9 ✓ ('above' is also possible)
- 10 above

88.4

- 1 + c below par (or 'under par') = slightly unwell (in other contexts 'below par' means 'less than the standard expected')
- 2 + e below the belt = cruel or unfair
- 3 + b under her belt = successfully completed
- 4 + f under a cloud = people disapprove of someone because they think the person has done something wrong
- 5 + g over the top = extreme behaviour; indicating disapproval
- 6 + a over and above = in addition to
- 7 + d across the board = applies equally to all areas

UNIT 89

89.1

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1 between | 6 between |
| 2 among | 7 among |
| 3 between | 8 among |
| 4 between | 9 between |
| 5 among | |

89.2

- 2 between/ among the pupils
- 3 between amateur
- 4 among teenagers
- 5 between/ among his remaining relatives
- 6 among its clients