



## 1B GRAMMAR discourse markers (1): linkers

- a Circle the correct linker.



I would say that the most challenging period in my career so far was my first junior management position in the company where I still work today. I had always wanted to be an accounts manager, <sup>1</sup>so/ *although* / *despite* I was thrilled when I got the job, but little did I know what was waiting for me on my first day. The office environment was rather disorganized, and to make matters worse, my boss was completely unsupportive of me. For some reason, he just refused to take any responsibility for dealing with the clients, and <sup>2</sup>consequently / *so as to* / *although*, I was forced to deal with all the problems by myself. I used to stay late at the office almost every night <sup>3</sup>because of / *so that* / *so as not* to miss any of the clients' deadlines. It seems ridiculous now, but I was so stressed that I used to check my emails every five minutes, even at weekends, <sup>4</sup>so that / *in case* / *as a result* there was an urgent message asking me to sort something out. It was worth it in the end, <sup>5</sup>though / *but* / *as*, because eventually my boss was fired and I got promoted in his place!

- b Complete the text with a linker from the list. There are two you don't need to use.

although as as a result but despite however so that



The toughest time I've ever had was definitely my first term here at university. <sup>1</sup>Although I really love student life now, it wasn't so easy in the beginning. My bad luck started on the very first day. My parents had just dropped me off with all my stuff when some of the guys whose rooms were on the same corridor as mine suggested going to play basketball in the park nearby. I don't know exactly how it happened, <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ somehow, during the game, I tripped and fell really hard on my right arm and broke it. Apart from not being able to play any sports for weeks, it was especially annoying because my injury meant I wasn't able to write properly. <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, I got really behind with my essays and I had to take an extra class later in the year <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ I could catch up. On top of that, it wasn't as easy as I had expected to find friends, and I was pretty homesick for a while. <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, things got better eventually. Once my arm was better, I managed to get into the university basketball team and made loads of new friends.

- c Complete the text with a suitable linker. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.



Most people can't wait until the day they retire, but I can tell you it's not as simple as you might think. <sup>1</sup>Despite all the free time, retirement isn't just a question of enjoying yourself and feeling happy that you never have to work again. When my husband Frank retired after 40 rewarding years as a lawyer, he had terrible trouble adjusting to his new lifestyle. <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ he had always been committed to his career, it wasn't easy just to give it up overnight. We decided to move to the countryside <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ be nearer to our daughter and her family, but when we arrived, we found that they were all so busy with their own lives that they didn't have much time for us. Of course, we did babysit for our daughter sometimes <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ she could go out in the evenings, but somehow it wasn't the life we had imagined. Just when we were feeling really down, a friend of ours invited us along to a ballroom dancing class in the village. Frank wasn't keen at first, <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ once we got there, we had a wonderful time. Now we go three times a week and it's changed our lives. We keep fit and we've met so many fantastic people. And it's all <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the dance class. I don't know what we would have done without it!

### ACTIVATION

Write a paragraph about a challenging experience you have faced. You could write about your work, studies, or family. Explain what the challenge was and how you overcame it. If you can't think of anything from your life, write about a friend or relative.

In your paragraph, make sure you use at least five linkers.

## 2A GRAMMAR the past: habitual events and specific incidents

Read the story and put the verb in brackets in the most appropriate form. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.



I started school at the age of four at my local primary. I <sup>1</sup> 'd been looking forward (look forward) to starting school for some time because I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) any siblings, so I thought it was going to be the perfect opportunity to make new friends and have fun. On the first day, I <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (play) with my new classmates when the teacher <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (interrupt) us and asked us to pay attention. We all stopped what we had been doing and she introduced us to the class pet – Hammy the Hamster. He was the pet I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_ (want), but <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ (allow) to have.

The teacher told us that each child – in strict alphabetical order – could take Hammy home with them for one weekend and then bring him back the following Monday. I could hardly wait for it to be my weekend. I <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to school very early every day and I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (feed) and play with him. I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not want) to let the other children near him because I wanted Hammy to be my new best friend!

After three weeks, my weekend finally arrived. My mum hadn't been too keen on having a hamster in the house, but I'd been very persuasive – I <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very resourceful as a child – and finally she agreed. I was so happy.

Saturday was a beautiful, sunny day, so I thought Hammy would appreciate a morning walk in the garden. However, as I <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (take) him out of his cage, he <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (bite) me, I <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) him, and Hammy ran away!

I <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) a child who <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) very often, but on that occasion I spent all weekend crying and looking for Hammy. Sadly, though, Hammy <sup>16</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) forever and I never saw him again.

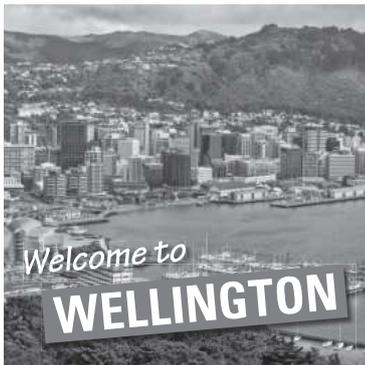
The worst was yet to come, however. On Monday, I had to go back to school with an empty cage. As I <sup>17</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) to the teacher what <sup>18</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (happen), I realized that the rest of the class were looking at me with hatred in their eyes; after all, I had lost the adored class pet! Nobody <sup>19</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) to me for at least a week and I remember it being the worst feeling I <sup>20</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (experience) in the four short years of my life.

### ACTIVATION

Think of a time in your childhood when you did something wrong.  
Write a paragraph describing the incident.

## 2B GRAMMAR pronouns

a Read the travel guide and **circle** the correct pronoun.



### Why visit

<sup>1</sup> **There's** / **(It's)** often referred to as the world's 'coolest little capital' and for good reason. Despite its compact size, Wellington offers tourists a vibrant arts scene, world-class dining options, and excellent outdoor activities. It's also a safe city with a great atmosphere; a place where locals are always ready to help <sup>2</sup> **one another** / **themselves** and visitors.

### When to visit

<sup>3</sup> **They** / **You** say that you can't beat Wellington on a good day. However, <sup>4</sup> **it's** / **there's** hard to say when that day might be. The city is renowned for its wild, windy weather, which <sup>5</sup> **they** / **you** can be subjected to in any season. Generally speaking, though, late January and February provide the sunniest, calmest days.

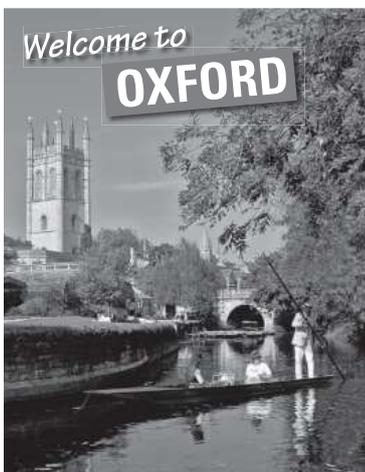
### Getting around

One of the best ways to explore Wellington is on foot. <sup>6</sup> **There's** / **It's** only two kilometres from one side of the city centre to the other, meaning <sup>7</sup> **you** / **they** can walk across it in under half an hour. <sup>8</sup> **It's** / **There's** also an excellent, well-used public transport system.

### What to see and do

Naturally, everyone has <sup>9</sup> **his** / **their** own idea about what constitutes a great day out, but you'll find that <sup>10</sup> **there's** / **it's** plenty to do in Wellington, whatever your interests. If history is your thing, a trip to *Te Papa* Museum is a must. Active travellers may like to climb to the top of Mount Victoria and appreciate the 360-degree views around <sup>11</sup> **them** / **themselves**. If you're into good food, you should make your way to Cuba Street to try out some of the city's best restaurants and cafés. However you decide to spend your time in Wellington, you can't fail to enjoy <sup>12</sup> **you** / **yourself**.

b Complete the travel guide with a suitable pronoun.



### Why visit

<sup>1</sup> **They** say that one always learns something when <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ visits Oxford. With its world-famous university and numerous other institutes of learning, <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ can't be denied that the 'city of dreaming spires' is significant not only academically, but also historically and culturally.

### When to visit

<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ really isn't a bad time of year to visit the city, since the weather is rarely extreme. As with much of the UK, however, it can be unpredictable, so anyone planning a trip ought to check the forecast before <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ arrive.

### Getting around

Due to its modest size, the simplest ways to get around the city's streets are walking or cycling. And while in Oxford, you must of course have a go at punting (boating) on the River Thames. You can either hire a punt with a chauffeur or, if you're more adventurous, you can do the punting <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

### What to see and do

Oxford is home to one of Europe's oldest libraries – the fascinating Bodleian Library. Unfortunately, visitors cannot look around the library by <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_; <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_'s necessary to join a guided tour. However, these are reasonably priced and very informative. If <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ enjoy being outdoors, head to Christ Church Meadow. <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_'s a popular spot for tourists, students, and locals, with riverside walking trails and stunning views back to the city. If you fancy a drink, <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_'s a fabulous, traditional British pub – *The Eagle and Child* – that's well worth a visit. The pub has been a favourite with famous writers, such as J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, since the seventeenth century, so you never know who might end up sitting next to <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_!

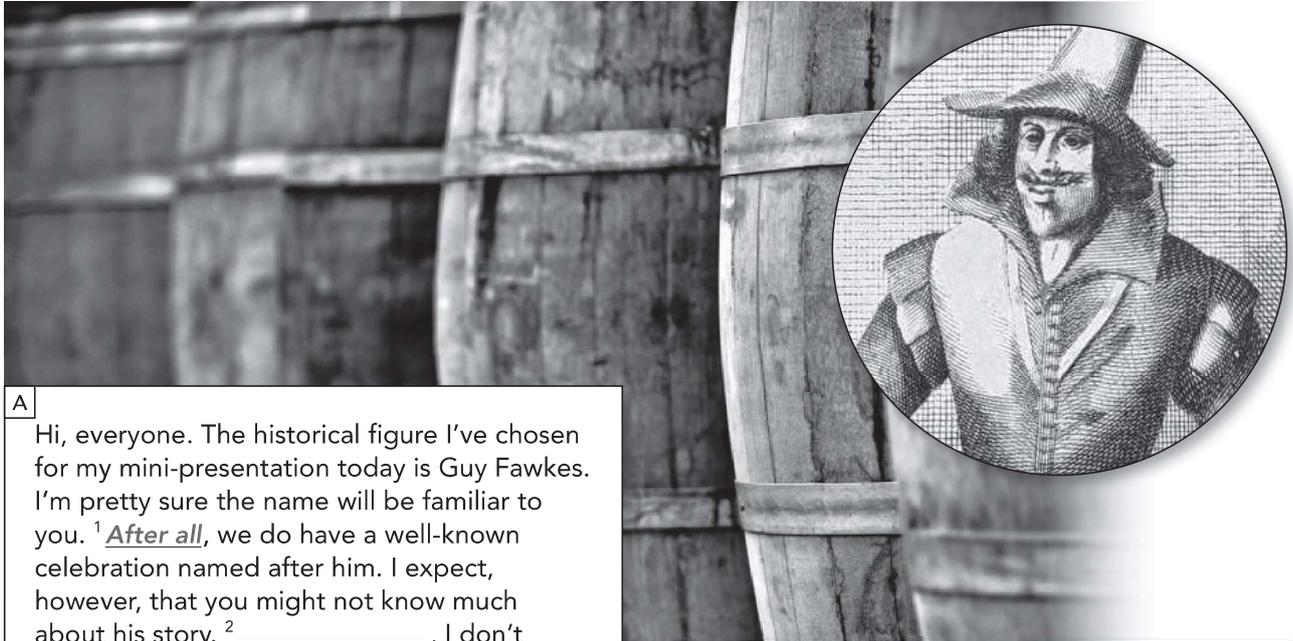
## ACTIVATION

Write your own travel guide about a city you know well. Use the same headings as above. Try to include at least six of the pronouns from **a** and **b**.

### 3B GRAMMAR discourse markers (2): adverbs and adverbial expressions

Complete the extracts from the presentation with a discourse marker from the list.

after all   all in all   anyway   as far as   at least   basically   by the way   in fact   obviously   that is to say



A

Hi, everyone. The historical figure I've chosen for my mini-presentation today is Guy Fawkes. I'm pretty sure the name will be familiar to you. <sup>1</sup> After all, we do have a well-known celebration named after him. I expect, however, that you might not know much about his story. <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, I don't have time to tell you everything about him in just five minutes, but let's start with some information about his early life...

B

...Despite his parents being members of the Church of England, <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Protestants, Fawkes's mother remarried a Catholic after his father's death. Several years later, Fawkes became influenced by his stepfather's religious practices, and those of his school friends, and converted to Catholicism, even though it was <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a crime to be a Catholic at that time in England...

C

...While fighting for the Spanish in 1604, Fawkes met Thomas Wintour, who encouraged him to join a group of conspirators in a plot to assassinate the new Protestant king of England. <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, interestingly, the king was both James VI and I. He was King of Scotland as James VI and then later King of England as James I. <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, back to what I was saying about Guy Fawkes...

D

...So, over the next 18 months, Fawkes and 12 others worked out a careful plan. <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, they plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament, kill the King, and replace him with a Catholic monarch. <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the method was concerned, they decided to use gunpowder. Thirty-six barrels of it, to be precise. They placed these in the cellar and planned to set them alight when the King opened parliament on 5 November. The plan was bound to succeed, or <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that's what the conspirators thought!

E

...Fawkes was sentenced to death and executed. Now, every year on 5 November, people mark the anniversary of the failure of the Gunpowder Plot by setting off fireworks and building large bonfires. And that brings me to the end of my presentation. <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, I think it's fair to say that Guy Fawkes led a very eventful life, driven by his cause. If you have any questions, I'll do my best to answer them.

#### ACTIVATION

Prepare a five-minute mini-presentation about a famous historical figure who interests you. If you need to find information, try searching on the internet in English. Use discourse markers in your mini-presentation.

## 4A GRAMMAR adding emphasis (1): inversion

- a Read the online reviews. Complete them with a word from the list. There are four words you don't need to use.

again but hardly never no not only rarely ~~sooner~~ than until when

### Restaurant reviews



Fantastic service! No <sup>1</sup> sooner had we sat down at our table than we were offered a drink. ★★★★★



Hardly had we finished our starters <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the waiter brought us our main courses. It was almost as if they wanted to get rid of us! ★★

### Book reviews



<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ have I read such a gripping book. I just couldn't put it down! ★★★★★



<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ when I compared the original to the translated version did I see just how bad the translation really was. ★

### Film reviews



<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ have I seen such a moving film. There are only a few that can compare. ★★★★★



Never <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ will I watch a war film on a laptop. I think it's essential to see them at the cinema to appreciate the special effects. ★

### Hotel reviews



Not only were our rooms not available when we arrived, <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ there was also nowhere to leave our luggage. ★★



Not <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you stay at this hotel do you really understand the meaning of the word 'luxury'. 10/10. ★★★★★

- b Rewrite the sentences to make them more emphatic.

- We only received our drinks when we reminded the waiter for the third time.  
Only when we reminded the waiter for the third time did we receive our drinks.
- I've rarely had the opportunity to eat at such a high-class restaurant.  
Rarely \_\_\_\_\_ at such a high-class restaurant.
- The novel has an implausible storyline and the characters are really dull as well.  
Not only \_\_\_\_\_ really dull.
- I'll never read another book by that author again.  
Never again \_\_\_\_\_ by that author.
- The film had scarcely started when I was moved to tears.  
Scarcely \_\_\_\_\_ moved to tears.
- Until you've watched the film two or three times, you can't fully understand the plot.  
Not until \_\_\_\_\_ the plot.
- The bed was so comfortable! I fell asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.  
The bed was so comfortable! No sooner \_\_\_\_\_ fell asleep.
- We were only given a different room after we asked to speak to the manager.  
We asked to speak to the manager. Only then \_\_\_\_\_ a different room.

### ACTIVATION

Write a short online review about a restaurant / film / book / hotel experience you have had. In your review, use one or two negative adverbial expressions followed by inversion to emphasize your point.