

Link Words

The structures and functions that we have seen up to now have been concerned mainly with single ideas. However, relating one idea to another is also one of the essential roles of language. One way of doing this is by means of **link words**. These are conjunctions and adverbs that can be used, for example, to indicate that:

- the information is supplementary to something already said (**and ...**),
- the information stands in contrast to what has been said before (**but ...**),
- the information is a cause, a consequence or an illustration (**because, for example ...**).

Functions & Grammar

KEY POINTS – LINK WORDS

1. Giving additional information

and • not only / but • as well as •
in addition • furthermore • moreover • besides • apart from

- The flat is too small and **furthermore**, it is not in the town centre.

2. Contrast

but • however • nevertheless • yet^{G. Notes 7} • although • (even) though •
in spite of / despite • whereas • on (the) one hand / on (the) other hand

- Geologists are using radio-active analysis of rocks more and more, **nevertheless** it is not suitable in every case.

3. Contrast to what people think

actually^{G. Notes 8} • in fact •
in actual fact • in reality

- Most people think that Fleming was the father of penicillin, but **actually** most of the work was done by Florey.

4. Introducing a cause / consequence

• because • as • since
• consequently • therefore • thus • hence • as a result • thereby^{G. Notes 11}

- The arteries become gradually blocked, **thereby** reducing the oxygen supply to the brain.

5. Introducing something obvious / generally accepted

obviously • naturally • of course •
clearly • doubtless^{G. Notes 9}

- **Obviously**, unless the birth rate decreases, there will be a major food crisis.

6. Making a general statement

in general • generally speaking •
on the whole • as a rule

- **As a rule**, metals are inflammable.

7. Clarification

for example • for instance • e.g.^{G. Notes 10} •
that is to say • in other words • i.e.^{G. Notes 10} • such as • namely

- The quantity of heat is expressed in the same units as energy and work, **namely** joules.