

Link words (discourse connectors)

Whether you speak or write you need to help people make sense of what you say by signalling to them how one idea leads to another. The words or phrases which have this connecting function called link words or discourse connectors. They generally come at the beginning of a sentence. Their most important functions are as follows:

1/ Enumerating :

Begining a list : first, to begin with, to start with, first of all

Eg : To begin, I suggest you get yourself a job .

Continuing a list : second, secondly, next, then, after this

Eg : Next you look for a convenient place to live in.

Finishing a list : finally, in the end, lastly, at last

Eg : Finally she managed to escape.

2/ Expressing pupose : so that, to, in order to, so as to, in order that

Eg :- you must cross that bridge in order to reach the other bank of the river .

-I sent her a message to / so as to / in order to congratulate her .

3/ Expressing time : after, before, when, since, shortly afterwards, later, earlier, from, at the same time.....

Eg : Ahmed came home at 5 p.m shortly afterwards his father arrived .

4/ Explaining : you can explain a point in three ways :

-by clarifying its meaning : that is, that is to say (often written « i.e »

- by giving a more precise description : namely, in other words, to put it more simply.....

- by giving an illustration : for example, eg, for instance.....

5/ comparing : in comparison with, like, similarly, compared with, bothand....., neithernor.....

Eg : The doctor advised him to stop smoking . similarly, he recommended him to eat less and take plenty of exercises.

6/Expressing cause / reason : because, for , due to

Eg : she has to stay in bed because she is ill.

7 / Expressing effect / result / consequence : so , and so , as a result , consequently , such + noun + that.....

Eg : it was such a sunny day that we decided to go to the seaside.

9/ summing up / concluding : to sum up, in short, on the whole, to conclude, in conclusion.....

Eg : in conclusion , i feel confident that she will make the best of her to stay in your company.