

USING SENTENCE CONNECTORS IN THE WRITING PROCESS: A RESOURCE LIST*

LOGICAL RELATIONSHIP	CONNECTORS, TRANSITION WORDS, LINKS, PHRASES	TRANSLATION AND GRAMMATICAL CATEGORY	POSITION**	FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
<u>ADDITION</u>	And	“i” ; <i>conjunció</i>	...and...	Linking two main ideas	“I came to town in 2000 and have lived here ever since.”
	Also / not only...but also	“també / a més a més” ; <i>adverbi</i>	mid position	Additionality	“Tony Nutall is Vice-Chancellor and also a Professor of English at Sussex.”
	Moreover	“a més a més” / d’altra banda” ; <i>adverbi</i>	.____, ...	Introducing an opinion that adds, supports or emphasizes the previous one	“The Opposition have consistently accused the Government of corruption. Moreover , they have given names.”
	In addition (in addition to this / that)	“a més”; <i>locució</i>	.____, ...		“ In addition to chocolate cake, they also ate a great deal of fruit.”
	Furthermore	“a més (a més)” ; <i>adverbi</i> (rather formal)	.____, ...		“Computer chess games are still a bit expensive, but they are getting cheaper all the time. Furthermore , their quality is rising.”
	Besides	“a més (a més)” ; <i>adverbi</i>	.____, ... / mid position	It is often used when listing	“What languages do you know besides English and German?”
<u>CONTRAST</u>	However	“no obstant això” ; <i>adverbi</i>	.____, ... / ... , ____ , ... (aposió)	Contrasting facts about the same or different things.	“Loosing at games doesn’t seem to matter to some women. Most men, however , can’t stand it at any price.”
	In contrast (to / with) / on the contrary / by contrast	“pel contrari / al contrari / d’altra banda” ; <i>locució</i>	.____, ...	Indicating how different a person or thing is from another thing or person you mentioned earlier. The second sentence strongly rejects the idea of the first	“ In contrast to other European countries, our use of oil has increased enormously.”
	On the one hand...on the other hand	“D’una banda ... d’altra banda” ; <i>locució</i>	.____, ...	Introducing the first / second part of an argument or discussion that has two different and opposite points of view.	“ On the one hand , you must admit that John had great difficulties playing cricket, but on the other hand , he was an awfully good rugby player.”
	In spite of	“malgrat” ; <i>locució</i>	.____, ...	Introducing a fact which makes the other part of the sentence extremely surprising	“ In spite of his poor health, my father was always a cheerful man.”
	Despite / notwithstanding (formal)	“malgrat” ; <i>preposició</i>	.____, ... / ... , ____ , ... (aposió)		“ Despite the difference in their ages, they were close friends.” // “Computing remains a growth area and one in which, notwithstanding economic recessions, the outlook looks bright.”
	Nevertheless (rather formal and stronger) / even so	“tanmateix” / “malgrat tot” ; <i>adverbi</i>	.____, ... /	Introducing a surprising statement which is the opposite to what you would normally expect to be true.	“He had not slept that night. Nevertheless , he led the rally with his usual vigour.” // “He smokes and drinks. Even so , I bet he’ll live till he’s a hundred.”
	Instead	“en lloc d’això” ; <i>adverbi</i>	... ____.	Something is done in place of something else that you have mentioned.	“Judy did not answer. She looked out of the taxi window instead .”
	But / not only ... but also	“però” / “sinó” ; <i>conjunció</i>	..., but ...	Used after having made a negative statement to introduce a contrasting idea with the first. Two equally important ideas.	“They don’t need to know all the answers, but they need to know how to find out the answers.” // “You are not only funny, but witty as well.”

	Yet	“tot i així”; <i>conjunció</i>	..., yet ...	Introducing a comment or statement which is rather surprising after the previous one	“It’s incredible yet true.”
	Although; though	“encara que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	_____,, _____	It introduces subordinate clauses which contain a statement or comment that is relevant to the main clause and it modifies it (making it seem surprising, unexpected...)	“ Although he was late for the meeting, he stopped to buy a sandwich.” // “He wasn’t tired, though he hadn’t stopped working all day.”
	Rather	“més aviat”; <i>adverbi</i>	..., _____	Introducing a statement that expresses a different and often opposite opinion from the one that has just been expressed and to suggest that this second statement is a truer or better one.	“This was no matter for congratulation, but rather a matter for vengeance.”
	Even though / even if	“tot i que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	_____,, _____	Introducing a clause which appears to partly contradict the main clause in the sentence, but that does not actually affect the truth of the main clause.	“ Even if you disagree with her, she’s worth listening to.” // “I was always afraid of men, even though I had lots of boyfriends.”
	While / whereas / whilst (formal)	“tot i que” / “mentre que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	Beginning of the subordinate clause	Contrasting with what you mentioned in the main clause.	“ While I have sympathy for these fellows, I think they went too far.” // “ Whilst these is fairly cheap, it works awfully in bad weather conditions.” // “Humans are capable of error whereas the computer is not.”
COMPARISON	Likewise (formal)	“de la mateixa manera”; <i>adverbi</i>	_____, ...	It is used when comparing two methods, states, situations... and saying that they are similar.	“You can’t wear that; this is not a fancy dress ball. Likewise , brides can’t dress in black.”
	Do likewise	“fer el mateix”; <i>locució</i>	... _____.		“Watch him and do likewise .”
	In the same way / manner	“de la mateixa manera”; <i>locució</i>	_____, ...		“Every baby’s face is different from every other’s. In the same way , every baby’s pattern of development is different from every other’s.”
	Like	“com”; <i>preposició</i>	... _____		“I saw a dog like ours on the beach.”
	Similarly	“igualment”; <i>adverbi</i>	_____, ...		“You should notify any change of address to our administration department. Similarly , you should do the same with your personal details.”
RESULT OR EFFECT	Therefore	“per tant” <i>adverbi</i>	_____, ...	It indicates that what you are about to say or mention is the result or consequence of something that has just been said. It may also introduce a conclusion.	“We have a growing population. Therefore , we need more and more food.”
	Consequently	“per consegüent”; <i>adverbi</i>	..., _____ mid position (“and”)		“Absolute secrecy is essential. Consequently , the fewer who are aware of the plan the better.”
	Hence (formal)	“per això”; <i>adverbi</i>			“Computers have become smaller and cheaper and hence more available to a gret number of people.”
	Thus (formal)	“per aquesta raó”; <i>adverbi</i>			“A rise in incomes will create increased purchasing power, thus stimulating demand for goods and services.”
	So	“de manera que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>			“He speaks very little English, so I talked to him through an interpreter

	Thereupon (formal)	“Com a conseqüència”; <i>adverbi</i>			“I threw a few copies of the report on his desk, which thereupon fell to the floor.”
<u>REASON</u>	Because	“perquè”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>		It introduces the <u>reason</u> for a statement.	“I talked to him through an interpreter because he speaks very little English.”
	As	“com que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>		It is used when you want to explain why something is the case.	“She would like to teach, but as her subjects are Greek and Latin she’s not likely to find a job.”
	Since	“ja que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	... _____ ...	It introduces a <u>reason</u> for something, especially when this reason is something that is already known to the person you are talking to.	“Aircraft noise is a particular problem here since we’re close to Heathrow Airport.”
	For (formal)	“ja que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>		It introduces a clause which gives the reason why you made the statement in the main clause.	“This was where he spent a great deal of his free time for he had nowhere else to go.”
<u>PURPOSE</u>	So that	“per tal que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	... _____ ...	It is used to introduce the reason for something that has just been mentioned.	“He has to earn lots of money so that he can buy his children nice food and clothes.”
<u>TIME OR SEQUENCE</u>	First(-ly), at first, in the first place, to begin with, the primary reason, second(-ly), third(-ly)...	“en primer lloc” / “primerament” / “per començar”...; <i>adverbis i locucions</i>	_____,, _____mid position (“and”)	Putting or placing a series of events in chronological order (one after another in a fixed order or according to a definite pattern, usually moving in stages towards a particular result).	“ At first , he couldn’t work out why the room seemed different”
	Then	“llavors”; <i>adverbi</i>			“He went to the village school, then to the grammar school and then to the university.”
	Next	“després”; <i>adverbi</i>			“In 1998, we did Macbeth. Next , we did the Merchant of Venice.”
	Afterwards	“després”; <i>adverbi</i>			“We had a very good meal. Afterwards , everybody helped with the washing up.”
	Later	“més tard”; <i>adverbi</i>			“She finished up her breakfast. Later , she went up to the office.”
	Thereafter (formal)	“a partir d’aleshores”; <i>adverbi</i>			“The day started early with tea at 6.15. Thereafter , it was punctuated by meals and hot drinks.”
	Meanwhile (in the meanwhile / in the meantime)	“mentrestant”; <i>adverbi</i>			“Of course it will all end one day. In the meanwhile , I enjoy the game we’re all playing.”
	Eventually, finally, at last, in the end...	“finalment”; <i>adverbi</i>			“She had terrible headaches during the night. Eventually , in the morning, they got through the hospital.”
	When (whenever)	“quan”; <i>conjunció</i>			“ When I have free time, I always spend it fishing.” // “Come to see me whenever you feel you have to talk.”
	While / as (simultaneously)	“mentre”; <i>conjunció</i> (normalment seguida de formes continues. Emfatitza la durada)			“ While he was turning the key in the lock, someone opened a door on the other side of the corridor.”

	Before	“abans”; <i>adverbi</i> / “abans de”; <i>preposició</i> / “abans que”; <i>conjunció</i>			“She had never been drunk before in her life.” // “ Before the First World War, the farmers used to use horses instead of tractors.” // “You have to pay out 50\$ in cash before they’ll give it to you.”
	Suddenly	“de sobte”; <i>adverbi</i>			“They were all having a big party in the office. Suddenly , the door opened and in walked the boss.”
	After (this, a while, a bit, a few days)	“després d’això...d’una estona...”; <i>locució</i>			“His birthday party began at 9.30. After a while , everybody was singing and having fun.”
	Until (then)	“fins que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i> // “fins (a)”; <i>preposició</i>			“We went on duty at 6 in the evening and worked until 2 a.m.” // “You can’t get free prescriptions until you are 16.”
	Hitherto (formal)	“fins ara”; <i>adverbi</i>			“Modern technology has solved so many hitherto insoluble problems”
	As long as	“mentre que”; <i>locució</i>			“You can’t turn the heat off as long as the system is operating.”
	Soon (afterwards), as soon as	“poc després” // “tan aviat com; així que”; <i>locució</i>			“Peter and Julie got married in 2001. Soon afterwards , they had their first baby, John.” // “Let us know as soon as you can.”
<u>SUMMARY</u>	In short / in brief	“en resum”; <i>locució</i>	(...). _____, ...	<p>These transitions are used when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you have been listing or giving a lot of details about facts, events, feelings, situations... and you want to show a final conclusion. • You state briefly and clearly the main points of a speech, argument... • You want to introduce a summary or generalization, or an opinion which is based on facts or reasons that have already been given. 	“Peter didn’t have an easy childhood. His parents abandoned him at the age of three and then he spent the next six years in an orphanage run by a religious group. He has lived with several families since then, but nobody is willing to adopt handicapped children. All this has made of him a lonely, sad and gloomy teenager. On the whole , he is a very difficult character.”
	In order to conclude	“per tal de concloure”; <i>locució</i>			
	To sum up	“en resum”; <i>locució</i>			
	(In order) ... To summarize	“en resum” / “a fi de resumir”; <i>locució</i>			
	On the whole	“en general” / “en conjunt”; <i>locució</i>			
	In other words	“en altres paraules” / “és a dir”; <i>locució</i>			
	All in all	“fet i fet”; <i>locució</i>			
<u>EXAMPLES</u>	For example (e.g = “exempli gratia”) [i.e = id est]	“per exemple”; <i>locució</i>	(...). _____, ... (...). _____:, _____, ...	To introduce and emphasize something that illustrates a point you are making, or that supports an argument, theory or opinion.	“This file contains a sheet of paper with a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers. For example : doctor, dentist, vet, garage and so on.”
	For instance	“per exemple”; <i>locució</i>			
	Specifically	“concretament”; <i>adverbi</i>	..., _____, ... (aposició)	To say that you are concentrating on a particular aspect of a subject.	“I dislike talk shows, particularly those in which the guests shout and insult each other, even theTV host.”
	In particular / particularly	“en particular”; <i>adverbi</i>	(...). _____:, _____, ...		

REPHRASING	In fact	“de fet”; <i>locució</i>	(...). _____, ...	It is used to introduce or to indicate more detailed information which is related to what you have just been saying.	“This isn’t very interesting. In fact , I think it’s remarkably dull.”
	Indeed (formal)	“de fet”; <i>adverbi</i>	..., _____, ... (aposició)	It is used to add a further comment or statement which strengthens the point you have already made.	“I am very happy, indeed anxious, that students’ views should be expressed.”
EXPRESSING PERSONAL OPINION	To my mind, ... // In my opinion, ...	“segons el meu parer”; <i>locució</i>		<p>These transitions are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To indicate that the statement you are making is your own opinion. When you want to emphasize that you are stating a personal comment on something. To portray the way of looking at or considering something. 	<p>“To my mind, Michael Jackson never really exploited his potential.” // “In my view, all I can say is that this is the best of all possible solutions.” // “From my point of view, getting married in order to pay less taxes is quite a stupid decision.”</p>
	As far as I am concerned, ...	“pel que fa a mi”; <i>locució</i>			
	Personally, I think...	“personalment, crec (que)...”; <i>locució</i>	_____, ...		
	As I see it, ...	“tal i com jo ho veig”; <i>locució</i>			
	From my point of view, ...	“des del meu punt de vista”; <i>locució</i>			
	In my view, ...	“al meu entendre”; <i>locució</i>			
ALTERNATIVE	Or	“o”; <i>conjunció</i>	... _____ ...	It is used to link a number of alternatives.	“Do you want your drink up there or do you want to come down for it?”
	Either	“tots dos”; <i>adjectiu</i>	... _____ ...	It is used to introduce a noun that refers to each of two things when you are talking about both of them.	“The two ladies sat in large armchairs on either side of the stage.”
		“cap dels dos”; <i>pronom</i>	... _____.	It is used in a negative statement to refer to each of two things, people or situations, when you are emphasizing that the negative statement includes both of them.	“Which one do you want? I don’t want either .”
	Either ... or	“o... o”; <i>conjunció</i>	... _____ _____ ...	In front of the first of two or more alternatives, when you are stating the only possibilities or choices that there are. The other alternatives are introduced by “or”.	“I was expecting you either today or tomorrow.”
	Neither (of)	“cap (dels dos)”; <i>pronom</i>	_____ (of) ...	It is used to refer to to each of two things, people, situations..., when you are making a negative statement that includes both of them.	“ Neither of us was having bad luck.” // “ Neither was suffering pain.”
		“tampoc”; <i>adverbi</i>	... _____ ...	It is used after a negative statement to introduce a clause and to say that the previous statement is also true of the person or thing that you are about to mention.	“I was not happy and neither were they.
	Neither ... nor	“ni ... ni”; <i>conjunció</i>	... _____ _____ ...	In a negative statement in front of the first of two alternatives, when you are emphasizing that none of the alternatives mentioned is true, possible or likely to happen. The other alternatives are introduced by “nor”.	“I wouldn’t dream of asking neither Mary nor my mother to take on the responsibility.”

	Otherwise	“si no” / “de no ser així”; <i>adverbi</i>	(...). _____, ...	It is used to say what the result or consequence would be if the previously mentioned situation, fact, idea... was untrue or was not the case.	“It’s perfectly harmless, honey. Otherwise , I wouldn’t have done it.”	
	Instead of	“en lloc d’algú / d’alguna cosa”; <i>preposició</i>	... _____ ...	It is used to introduce something which is not done or not true when you contrast this with something else which is done or is true.	“I’m tired of sleeping in the mud instead of a nice, warm bed.”	
<u>CONDITION</u>	If	“si”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	_____ ..., (...) _____ ...	In conditional sentences in which you say that one thing must happen first or be true first before it is possible for something else to happen or be true.	“ If all goes well, Voyager 2 will head on to Uranus.”	
	Granted that (formal) / Given that	“donat que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	_____ ..., (...) _____ ...	It is used when you talk about something true and you make a comment about what the likely consequences might be	“ Granted that he’s in hospital, he can’t do us much harm.” // “La Habana University is the best place for me to study given that I am highly interested in Marxism.”	
	Provided that	“amb la condició que” / “sempre que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	_____ ..., (...) _____ ...	It is used to say that something will happen as long as something else happens (the first thing will happen only if the second thing also happens).	“Children were permitted into the hall for these films provided that they sat at the back.”	
	In case	“per si”; <i>locució</i> (sovint amb “just”)	... _____.	... _____.	To refer vaguely to the possibility of something happening, which you do not actually specify and which is the reason why you do something or suggest something.	“Do you want me to hold one of them just in case ?”
		“per si”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	_____ ..., (...) _____ ...	_____ ..., (...) _____ ...	When you are giving information.	“ In case you didn’t know, there are three basic wines: red, white and rosé.”
	Whether	“si”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	... _____ _____ ...	It is used in indirect questions where the answer is “yes” or “no”.	“I can’t tell whether she loves me or she hates me.”
	Whether ... or not	“tant si ... com no”; <i>locució</i>	... _____ _____ ...	It is used to say that something is true in any of the circumstances that you mention.	“He’s going to buy a house whether he gets married or not .”
Unless	“llevat que” (+ subjuntiu) / “si no és que”; <i>conjunció sub.</i>	_____ ..., (...) _____ ...	_____ ..., (...) _____ ...	It is used to introduce the only circumstances in which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An event you are mentioning will not take place. A statement you are making is not true. 	“I can’t get a grant unless I have five years’ teaching experience.” = “ If I don’t have 5 years’ teaching experience, I can’t get a grant.” // “ Unless I was very much mistaken, there was something wrong with her.”	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOME OF THE EXAMPLES PROVIDED ARE TAKEN FROM THE <u>COLLINS COBUILD DICTIONARY</u> (Collins Birmingham University International Language Database). (*) NOTE: this list is not meant to be exhaustive or to present strict rules of use but to suggest some possibilities. It’s up to you to complete or enlarge it in order to develop your own way of using sentence connectors. (**) NOTE: If you check a good monolingual dictionary, you will notice that most of the times there is more than one possibility. Anyway, remember these two tips: “do this and you will be right more often than wrong” and “the more you’ll read and write, the more you’ll learn”. 						