

English Linking Words & Connectors



Here's the Best Program for Learning English

EnglishClass101.com teaches you English faster than most vocabulary apps... and takes you to conversational fluency. Interested? Click below to get your Free Lifetime Account.

[Click here to visit EnglishClass101.com](https://www.englishclass101.com)

Many linking words have a formal and an informal equivalent that mean the same thing. Choosing the right one depends on your context — academic writing and professional emails call for formal connectors, while conversation and informal writing use simpler ones. Using overly formal connectors in speech sounds unnatural, and using informal ones in academic writing looks unprofessional.

Formal vs Informal Equivalents	Formal	Informal
Adding information	Furthermore / Moreover / In addition	Also / Plus / And
Contrasting	Nevertheless / Nonetheless / However	But / Though / Still
Cause and effect	Consequently / Therefore / Thus	So / That's why
Giving a reason	Since / As	Because
Giving examples	For instance / To illustrate	Like / For example
Conceding a point	Although / Even though / Whilst	But / Even so
Summarizing	In conclusion / To summarize	So / Anyway

Correct Position in a Sentence	Connector	Example
Start of a sentence (most)	However / Therefore / Furthermore	However, the results were inconclusive.
Middle of a sentence	although / because / whereas	She passed although she didn't study much.
After a semicolon	however / therefore / moreover	The data was clear; however, the conclusion was wrong.
Cannot start a sentence	because / although (alone)	Because it was late. X (incomplete)

Common Mistakes	Correct	Incorrect
Despite + noun (not clause)	Despite the rain, we continued.	Despite it was raining, we continued.
Although vs Despite	Although it rained, we continued.	Despite it rained, we continued.
Because vs Because of	Because of the rain, we stayed in.	Because of it rained, we stayed in.
However — needs punctuation	We tried. However, it failed.	We tried however it failed.
Therefore — needs punctuation	The test failed. Therefore, we repeated it.	The test failed therefore we repeated it.
Moreover — not a conjunction	The plan failed. Moreover, it was costly.	The plan failed, moreover it was costly.

– **FORMAL:** The project exceeded its budget. Consequently, it was cancelled. Furthermore, the team was restructured.

Here's the Best Program for Learning English

[Click here to visit EnglishClass101.com](https://www.englishclass101.com)

- *INFORMAL: The project went over budget, so it got cancelled. Plus, they changed the team.*
- *CONTRAST: Although the report was late, the quality was excellent. (within one sentence)*
- *CONTRAST: The report was late. However, the quality was excellent. (two sentences)*
- *CAUSE: Because the data was incomplete, the results were unreliable. (because + clause)*
- *CAUSE: Due to incomplete data, the results were unreliable. (due to + noun phrase)*

English Linking Words & Connectors



Here's the Best Program for Learning English

EnglishClass101.com teaches you English faster than most vocabulary apps... and takes you to conversational fluency. Interested? Click below to get your Free Lifetime Account.

[Click here to visit EnglishClass101.com](https://www.englishclass101.com)

Linking words and connectors join ideas together and show the relationship between them. Using a variety of connectors makes your writing and speech more fluent, logical, and natural. They are essential for essays, emails, presentations, and everyday conversation.

ENGLISH

MEANING / NOTES

also	in addition to what was said
furthermore	in addition — stronger and more formal
moreover	adding a stronger or more important point
in addition	adding extra information
besides	adding another reason or point
what is more	adding an even stronger point — formal
not only... but also	emphasizing two related points
however	introducing a contrast or exception
although	introducing a contrast within one sentence
nevertheless	despite what was just said — formal
on the other hand	presenting the opposite side
despite	followed by a noun — showing contrast
even though	stronger form of although

Here's the Best Program for Learning English

[Click here to visit EnglishClass101.com](https://www.englishclass101.com)

ENGLISH	MEANING / NOTES
whereas	comparing two different things or situations
because	giving a reason — followed by a clause
therefore	showing a result or conclusion
as a result	showing the consequence of something
consequently	as a direct result — formal
since	giving a reason — more formal than because
due to	giving a cause — followed by a noun
thus	showing a logical conclusion — very formal
first of all	introducing the first point
then	showing what comes next
after that	showing the next step in sequence
finally	introducing the last point
subsequently	coming after something — formal
meanwhile	at the same time as something else
for example	introducing a specific example
for instance	introducing a specific example
such as	introducing examples within a sentence
in particular	highlighting a specific example
to illustrate	showing an example — formal

Here's the Best Program for Learning English

[Click here to visit EnglishClass101.com](https://www.englishclass101.com)

ENGLISH

MEANING / NOTES

in conclusion	summarizing at the end of a piece
to sum up	summarizing the main points briefly
overall	giving a general summary
in short	summarizing concisely
on the whole	generally speaking