

Fact sheet - Level 2

Connectives

What are connectives?

Connectives are words which join ideas in a sentence together. There are lots of different types of connectives.

Additive connectives:

They signal extra information over and above what has already been given.

in addition ~ besides ~ furthermore ~ moreover

They usually start a sentence.

Causal connectives:

These form the link between cause and effect

because ~ since ~ as ~ therefore ~ consequently ~ as a result ~ for this reason ~ subsequently

Again these often start a sentence and come after a list of causes. Therefore can come after a statement such as "We can see, therefore, that"

Adversative connectives:

These show that a contrasting point of view is about to be expressed

but ~ yet ~ however ~ nevertheless ~ on the other hand ~ in contrast ~ whereas ~ though/although

but cannot start a sentence. Whereas only introduces a sub-ordinate clause: Pupils often abuse but: they use it like and. Make sure they use it correctly and are offered alternatives.

Temporal connectives:

These order events or ideas in a sequence and can be useful in chronological writing as well as ordering an argument.

first ~ now ~ then ~ next ~ consequently ~ as a result ~ for this reason ~ subsequently

when can be useful too, as can to conclude.

Summing up connectives:

thus ~ hence ~ therefore ~ consequently

These can come at the end of paragraphs as well as the end of whole pieces of writing in the conclusion.

Consequently can be used to sum up arguments and introduce a conclusion.

Sentence adverbs are not connectives: they may link, but not join.

Suddenly; eventually; later are usually used to start a sentence, but as pupils become more sophisticated they will move them:

Eventually he came.

He came eventually.

Suddenly he was there.

He was suddenly there.