

LINKING WORDS



⇒ When you are writing, it is important that the connections between your ideas are made very clear. You can make your thoughts clear by using linking words and phrases to connect your ideas.

A) CLAUSES OF CONTRAST

- but,
- although/even though/though,
- in spite of/despite,
- however,
- while/whereas,
- yet,
- nevertheless,
- on the other hand

➤ **But** seems to be the most common linking word that shows contrast.

- Sarah wasn't happy, **but** she did not show it.
- We wanted to go to the museum, **but** it was closed.

➤ **Although/Even though/Though** are followed by a clause, for example:

- **Although/Even though/Though** it was winter, it was quite warm.
- It was quite warm **although/even though/though** it was winter.
- It was winter. It was quite warm, **though***. *The linking word though can be used at the end of a sentence.

➤ **In spite of/Despite** is followed by a noun, or an -ing form,

In spite of/Despite the fact that is followed by a clause

- **In spite of/Despite** his poor knowledge, he passed the final test.
- **In spite of/Despite** being unprepared, he passed the final test.
- **In spite of/Despite the fact that** he was shy, he chatted her up at the pub.

➤ **However/Nevertheless** are close in meaning to but, but they are more formal. They are always followed by a comma, for example:

- Sophie has been unemployed for months, **however**, she turned down the latest job offer – it was below her expectations.

➤ **While/whereas** – they both mean the same when it comes to expressing contrast, for example:

- John is an intelligent guy, **whereas/while** Bob is hilarious.
- **While** Angie enjoys horse-riding, Bill likes swimming.

➤ **Yet/still** – their meaning is close to but, for example:

- My refrigerator is old. **Still**, its condition is good.
- Rebecca's had a car crash – the damage was huge, **yet** nothing serious happened to her.

➤ **On the other hand** is used to show two opposite opinions/points of view, for instance:

- Sam isn't a very musical person. **On the other hand**, he is good at playing football.