

LINKERS AND THEIR MEANINGS

Answer the questions about the linkers below.

Therefore – as a result of – also – in spite of- furthermore - so that - on the other hand – consequently -

1. Which two linkers mean 'in addition to'? 1] _____ 2] _____
2. Which linker comes before a verb ending in '-ing' and describes the effect of something?
"Sultan's eyes are bad spending too much time in front of his computer."
3. Which linker comes before an unexpected outcome or result? "*..... doing absolutely no work, Salem passed his English exam.*"
4. Which linker comes before a sentence describing the result of something that was mentioned in the previous sentence? *"It was quite hot in the classroom, _____, all the students felt tired and sleepy."*
5. Which linker comes before a sentence expressing an opposite point of view? *"Riding a motorcycle can be very dangerous; _____, you don't have to wait in traffic jams."*
6. Which linker means 'in order to make something happen or to make something possible'?
"Ibrahim left home early _____ he wouldn't arrive late at college."

Answer the questions about the linkers below.

in contrast– finally – while – but – although – first – thus – of course – also

1. Which word is used to show that other people probably already know what you're saying is true? *"If you don't come to class, _____ your teacher will mark you absent."*
2. Which linker introduces a statement that makes your main sentence seem surprising or unlikely? "*_____ he spoke very quietly; everyone could hear what the teacher was saying.*"
3. Which linker comes before a sentence or clause describing the result of something you've just mentioned? *"Bakheet sat directly in front of the teacher; _____ he was able to hear everything he said."*
4. Which linker is used to emphasize the difference between two situations, activities and so on? *"The classrooms at the back are very hot and noisy; _____ those at the front are cool and quiet."*

5. Which linker is used to emphasize the difference between two situations, activities and so on and is followed by a comma [,]? *"Summers in the desert are extremely hot and dry; _____, summers in the U.K. are often cool and wet."*
6. Which linker is often used to introduce the last point in an essay or paragraph?
"Sunbathing can very dangerous; first, you can get badly sunburned. Second, you can get very dehydrated, third, _____, you can get skin cancer from the sun."
7. Which linker is used to connect two statements when the second one adds something different or seems surprising after the first one? *"I don't know any Russian, _____ I'm a very fast learner and I'm very keen to learn the language."*

USING LINKERS IN WRITING TASK 2 SAMPLE A

Using A Computer Every Day Can Have More Negative Than Positive Effects On Your Children. Do You Agree or Disagree?

Fill the gaps with the linkers below, you don't have to use all the linkers and you can use some of them more than once:

Therefore – as a result of – also – in spite of- furthermore - so that - on the other hand – consequently -

Computers have become a part of every family home and have proven a useful aid for children's education. _____ this, children can be negatively affected by too much time spent on the computer every day. Children often sit in front of their computer screen for too long; _____, their eyes and physical posture can be damaged, regardless of what they are using the computer for.

For parents, the main concern is about the type of computer activities that attract children. These are often electronic games that tend to be very intense and rather violent. The player is usually the 'hero' of the game; children can become self-centred and insensitive to others _____ too much exposure to these kinds of games.

_____, they are no substitute for human interaction. Spending time with other children and sharing non-virtual experiences is an important part of a child's development that cannot be provided by a computer.

_____, computers are useful for other purposes, such as improving children's knowledge of the world, emailing friends, getting help with coursework and so on. _____, the obvious benefits of computer skills for young children cannot be denied. Their adult world will be changing constantly in terms of technology and the Internet is the key to all the knowledge and information available in the world today.

_____, it is important that children learn at an early age to use the equipment enthusiastically and with confidence as they will need these skills throughout their studies and working lives.

Having said that, parents must ensure that their children learn to enjoy other kinds of activity and not simply sit at home, learning to live in a virtual world _____ they do not miss out on learning important social skills and spoil their health by spending too much time in front of their computers.

USING LINKERS IN WRITING TASK 2 – SAMPLE B

Fill the gaps with the linkers below, you don't have to use all the linkers and you can use some of them more than once:

Of course – in contrast – although – finally – while – but – thus – also

Women Make Better Parents Than Men; To What Extent Do You Agree With This Statement?

The view that women are better parents than men has shown itself to be true throughout history. This is not to say that men are not of importance in child-rearing; indeed, they are most necessary if children are to appreciate fully the roles of both sexes. _____ women have proven themselves superior parents as a result of their conditioning, their less aggressive natures and their generally better communication skills.

From the time they are little girls, females learn about nurturing. Playing with dolls and later perhaps with younger brothers and sisters, girls are given the role of carer. Girls see their mothers in the same roles and _____, it is natural that they identify this as a female activity. Boys, _____, learn competitive roles far removed from what it means to nurture. _____ boys may dream of adventures, girls' conditioning means they tend to see the future in terms of raising families.

Girls _____ appear to be less aggressive than boys. In adulthood, it is men, not women, who prove to be the aggressors in crime and war. Obviously, in raising children, a more patient, gentle manner is preferable to a more aggressive one. _____ there exist gentle men and aggressive women, by and large, females are less likely to resort to violence in attempting to solve problems. _____, women tend to be better communicators than men. This is shown in intelligence tests, where females, on average, do better in verbal communication than males. _____, communication is of utmost importance in rearing children, as children tend to learn from and adopt the communication styles of their parents. _____ while it is all very well to suggest a greater role for men in raising children let us not forget that women are generally better suited to the parenting role.

USING LINKERS IN WRITING TASK 2 – SAMPLE A KEY

Using A Computer Every Day Can Have More Negative Than Positive Effects On Your Children. Do You Agree Or Disagree?

Computers have become a part of every family home and have proven a useful aid for children's education. **In spite of** this, children can be negatively affected by too much time spent on the computer every day. Children often sit in front of their computer screen for too long; **consequently**, their eyes and physical posture can be damaged, regardless of what they are using the computer for.

For parents, the main concern is about the type of computer activities that attract children. These are often electronic games that tend to be very intense and rather violent. The player is usually the 'hero' of the game; children can become self-centred and insensitive to others **as a result of** too much exposure to these kinds of games.

Furthermore, they are no substitute for human interaction. Spending time with other children and sharing non-virtual experiences is an important part of a child's development that cannot be provided by a computer.

On the other hand, computers are useful for other purposes, such as improving children's knowledge of the world, emailing friends, getting help with coursework and so on. **Also**, the obvious benefits of computer skills for young children cannot be denied. Their adult world will be changing constantly in terms of technology and the Internet is the key to all the knowledge and information available in the world today.

Therefore it is important that children learn at an early age to use the equipment enthusiastically and with confidence as they will need these skills throughout their studies and working lives. Having said that, parents must ensure that their children learn to enjoy other kinds of activity and not simply sit at home, learning to live in a virtual world **so that** they do not miss out on learning important social skills and spoil their health by spending too much time in front of their computers.

USING LINKERS IN WRITING TASK 2 – SAMPLE B – KEY

The view that women are better parents than men has shown itself to be true throughout history. This is not to say that men are not of importance in child-rearing; indeed, they are most necessary if children are to appreciate fully the roles of both sexes. **But** women have proven themselves superior parents as a result of their conditioning, their less aggressive natures and their generally better communication skills.

From the time they are little girls, females learn about nurturing. Playing with dolls and later perhaps with younger brothers and sisters, girls are given the role of carer. Girls see their mothers in the same roles and **thus**, it is natural that they identify this as a female activity. Boys, **in contrast**, learn competitive roles far removed from what it means to nurture. **While** boys may dream of adventures, girls' conditioning means they tend to see the future in terms of raising families.

Girls **also** appear to be less aggressive than boys. In adulthood, it is men, not women, who prove to be the aggressors in crime and war. Obviously, in raising children, a more patient, gentle manner is preferable to a more aggressive one. **Although** there exist gentle men and aggressive women, by and large, females are less likely to resort to violence in attempting to solve problems.

Finally, women tend to be better communicators than men. This is shown in intelligence tests, where females, on average, do better in verbal communication than males. **Of course**, communication is of utmost importance in rearing children, as children tend to learn from and adopt the communication styles of their parents.

Thus / Finally, while it is all very well to suggest a greater role for men in raising children let us not forget that women are generally better suited to the parenting role.