

Connectives or Openers



Connectives do not join two sentences. They simply make a connection between two sentences. Most frequently, a connective comes at the beginning of a new sentence, with a capital letter and a full stop in front of it. This is why they are commonly known as openers.

However, sometimes, connectives appear in the middle or at the end of the new sentence:

- John was the best player. He still had to work hard, nevertheless, for his place in the team.

Notice, though, that the connective is not joining the two sentences. The two sentences remain separate.

Remember – never use a connective to join sentences.

Common openers:

To show addition - in addition/also/furthermore/moreover

- John read all the Harry Potter books. In addition, he read all of Anne Fine's books.

To show contrast - however/nevertheless/on the other hand/instead/in contrast/looking at it another way

- The mugger ran off. However, he was arrested later.

Connective or openers and the semi-colon

To reinforce - besides/anyway/after all

- I stayed in to do my homework. Besides, I don't like hanging around on the streets.

To explain - 'for example', 'in other words'

- I found lots of flowers during my walk. For example, I found daisies, buttercups, and kingcups.

To list - first/firstly/secondly/thirdly/finally

- I found many reactions in my experiment. Firstly, the steam had condensed into water.

To show result - therefore/consequently/as a result/thanks to this/because of this

- Heat rises. Therefore, the top of a house is warmer than the bottom.

To show events following on - following this/after/afterwards/after that/then/next in the end/later/finally/eventually

- We spent all day in the park. Then we went home. Following this, we had a barbecue.

To show events preceding - at first/before/in the beginning/until then/up to that time

- We went to different secondary schools. Before that, we had spent every day together.

To show events happening at the same time - meanwhile/at the same time/simultaneously

- The family were eating in the front room. Meanwhile, the robber broke in through the back door.