

discourse markers (1): linkers

result

- 1 I have a job interview next week, **so** I've bought myself a suit!
- 2 It had snowed hard all night. **As a result**, the airport was closed until 11.00 a.m. We regret that you do not have the necessary qualifications and **therefore** / **consequently** we are unable to offer you the job.

- 1 so is the most common way of introducing a result or a logical connection.
- 2 as a result, therefore, and consequently (more formal than so) are often used at the beginning of a sentence or clause.
- therefore and consequently can also be used before a main verb, e.g. We have therefore / consequently decided not to offer you the job.

reason

- 1 I've stopped emailing her, **because** / **as** / **since** she never answers me. Can I go home, **seeing as** / **seeing that** there's no work to do?
- 2 The plane was late **because of** the fog. Flight 341 has been delayed **due to** / **owing to** adverse weather conditions.

- 1 because, as, and since (more formal) are synonyms and are used to introduce clauses giving a reason. as and since are often used at the beginning of a sentence, e.g. As / Since the rain hasn't stopped, we've decided not to go out.
- We can use seeing as / that to give a reason for what we're saying.
- 2 because of, due to, and owing to also express the reason for something. They are usually followed by a noun, a gerund, or the fact that + clause.
- due to and owing to are more formal than because of.

purpose

- 1 I did a language course **to** / **in order to** / **so as to** improve my English.
- 2 He closed the door quietly **so as not to** / **in order not to** wake the baby.
- 3 They moved to London **so (that)** they could see their grandchildren more often.
- 4 I'm not going to tell Amy, **in case** she tells everyone else.

- 1 to, in order to, and so as to introduce a clause of purpose and are all followed by an infinitive. to is the most informal.
- 2 For negative purpose we use so as not to or in order not to.
- 3 We can also use so (that) + can / could + verb or will / would + verb to express purpose. that can be left out in informal English.
- Use so (that) when there is a change of subject in the clause of purpose, e.g. She put a blanket over the baby so (that) he wouldn't be cold.
- 4 We use in case + a clause when we do something in order to be ready for future situations / problems, or to avoid them.

contrast

- 1 The meeting was OK, **but** the journey home was a nightmare. Agnes was attracted to the stranger, **yet** something in her head was telling her not to get close to him. It's a really good idea. **However**, it may be too expensive. The moon shone brightly. **Nevertheless**, it was hard to find our way.
 - 2 We enjoyed the film **although** / **even though** / **though** it was long.
 - 3 **In spite of** / **Despite** being 85, she still travels all over the world. **In spite of** / **Despite** her age... **In spite of** / **Despite** the fact that she's 85...
- 1 but is the most common and informal way of introducing contrast and is normally used to link two contrasting points within a sentence. yet is used in the same way, but is more formal / literary.
 - however and nevertheless are normally used at the beginning of a sentence to connect it to the previous one and are usually followed by a comma.
 - nevertheless (or nonetheless) is more formal / literary than however.
 - 2 even though is more emphatic than although. though is more common in informal speech.
 - 3 After in spite of and despite, use a gerund, a noun, or the fact that + clause.

a Circle the correct linker.

- Even though** / **Despite** she's working really hard, I don't think she'll be able to catch up.
- ✓ 1 We can't afford to have a holiday this year **as** / **yet** we've got an overdraft at the bank.
 - ✓ 2 Could we rearrange my timetable **so that** / **in case** I don't have so many classes on Fridays?
 - ✓ 3 I got to the interview on time **due to** / **in spite of** the fact that my train was late.
 - ✓ 4 It isn't worth phoning John, **seeing that** / **so that** he's arriving in five minutes.
 - ✓ 5 He gets a good salary **though** / **since** the job itself is quite monotonous.

b Circle the better option according to register.

- Sales have increased over the last six months. So / **Therefore** we will be taking on five new employees.
- ✓ 1 I've been off work for the last three days **because of** / **owing to** this nasty cough I've got.
 - ✓ 2 The organization has severe financial problems, and **so** / **consequently** half the staff have been laid off.
 - 3 The company has reported declining sales this year. **Nevertheless** / **But** they have so far managed to avoid any staff cuts.
 - 4 I stopped at a service station **to** / **in order to** fill up with petrol.
 - 5 I thought it was an amazing book. It was a bit depressing. **though** / **however**
 - 6 We regret to announce that the performance has been cancelled **due to** / **because of** technical problems.

c Join the sentences using the bold word(s), making any necessary changes.

- We only use energy-efficient light bulbs. We don't want to waste electricity. **so as**
We only use energy-efficient light bulbs so as not to waste electricity.
- 1 Our seats were a long way from the stage. We enjoyed the play. **In spite** ^{being} We enjoyed the play in spite of our seats ~~were~~ a long way from the stage
 - 2 It took us ages to get there. The traffic was heavy. **because of**
It took us ages to get there because of the heavy traffic ✓.
 - 3 I took the price off the bag. I didn't want Becky to know how much it had cost. **so**
I took the price off the bag so Becky ~~didn't~~ ^{wouldn't} know how much it had cost
 - 4 Keep the receipt for the sweater. Your dad might not like it. **in case** ^{your dad doesn't like it} Keep ~~the receipt for the sweater in case it doesn't like to your dad~~
 - 5 Susanna is an only child. She isn't at all spoilt. **Even though**
Susanna ~~isn't at all spoilt even though she is an only child~~ ^{is an only child - even though she isn't spoilt at all}
 - 6 Prices have risen. Production costs have increased. **due to**
✓ Prices have risen due to the fact that the production costs have increased ~~too~~