

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**
We _____.
 - 2 It took us ages to get there. The traffic was heavy. **because of**
It _____.
 - 3 I took the price off the bag. I didn't want Becky to know how much it had cost. **so**
I _____.
 - 4 Keep the receipt for the sweater. Your dad might not like it. **in case**
Keep _____.
 - 5 Susanna is an only child. She isn't at all spoiled. **Even though**
Susanna _____.
 - 6 Prices have risen. Production costs have increased. **due to**
Prices _____.