



Linking words cheat sheet

Linking words guide your reader through your ideas. Use a range, use them correctly, and don't start every sentence with one.

1 Linking words by job

Job	Words and phrases	Example
Adding	Furthermore, · Moreover, · In addition, · Also · Not only ... but also	<i>Online study is flexible. Furthermore, it is often cheaper.</i>
Contrast	However, · Nevertheless, · On the other hand, · although · while · whereas	<i>Although fees have risen, enrolments are growing.</i>
Concession	Admittedly, · It is true that ... but · Despite + noun/-ing · In spite of	<i>Despite the cost, many families choose private schools.</i>
Example	For example, · For instance, · such as · In particular, · A good example is	<i>Some cities, such as Melbourne, have expanded bike lanes.</i>
Cause	because · since · as · due to + noun · owing to + noun	<i>Traffic is worse due to population growth.</i>
Effect	Therefore, · As a result, · Consequently, · This means that · thus	<i>Rents have doubled. As a result, many students share houses.</i>
Sequence	Firstly, · Secondly, · Another reason is · Finally,	<i>Another reason is that remote work saves time.</i>
Opinion	In my view, · I firmly believe that · From my perspective, · It seems clear that	<i>I firmly believe that public transport should be cheaper.</i>
Conclusion	In conclusion, · To sum up, · Overall, · On balance,	<i>On balance, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.</i>

2 Get the grammar right

However vs although

However, starts a new sentence (with a comma after it).

Although joins two ideas in one sentence.

*Prices rose. **However**, demand stayed high.*

***Although** prices rose, demand stayed high.*

Despite / due to + noun

Follow these with a noun or *-ing*, never a full clause.

✓ *despite the rain · due to the rain*

× *despite it rained · due to it rained*

Comma after a starter

Put a comma after a linking phrase that starts a sentence.

For example, ... · As a result, ... · In conclusion, ...

Such as vs for example

such as + a list inside the sentence. **For example**, + a full sentence.

*sports **such as** tennis · **For example**, tennis is ...*

Score tip

PTE and IELTS reward linking that's **accurate and varied**, not frequent. Aim for words from 4–5 different jobs in an essay, about one or two per paragraph.



Check your linking words free with our PTE essay checker

Scan the code or visit englishcoaching.au/tools/pte-essay-checker/

Free PTE, IELTS and OET practice, marked instantly. © 2026 englishcoaching.au. Free to print and share, not for resale. Practice material only. Not affiliated with or endorsed by Pearson, IELTS or any test provider.