

LINKING WORDS – DISCOURSE ORGANIZATION

The following linking words are useful to write a story, an opinion essay, a summary or a report.

1. To list events (or your opinion) in a logical sequence:

First/ At first/First of all/ in the beginning, we met our friends.

Second/ secondly/ next, we caught the bus.

Third/ then, we arrived in London.

After that/ some time later, we got lost in the West End.

Finally/ eventually/ in the end, we managed to catch the tube and we found our way home.

Before catching the bus, we met our friends.

After meeting our friends, we caught the bus.

In a story it is also very useful to add adverbs, such as:

Suddenly/ all of a sudden a dark cloud appeared in the sky.

It started raining **heavily**, so we ran **quickly** into a café and waited **patiently**. **All in all**, I **really** enjoyed that day out with my friends.

2. To conclude: in short/ in a few words/ in brief/ briefly....

Lastly/ Finally/ to sum up/ in conclusion...

3. To express positive and negative sides:

TV has got many pros and cons/ advantages and disadvantages/ good points and drawbacks.

On one hand, TV keeps you informed about the rest of the world. On the other hand, it stops people talking.

4. To express contrast:

TV doesn't encourage your imagination, while radio does. TV stops people talking, it can be boring and stupid, but it keeps people informed.

TV stops people talking. However/ Nevertheless, it keeps people informed.

Although TV keeps people informed, it stops them talking.

TV doesn't leave much room to your personal imagination.

On the contrary/ In contrast, radio does, because you are free to imagine situations, settings, characters and so on.

5. To emphasize contrast by adding some information:

NOT ONLY (+ VERB INVERSION)..... BUT ALSO

Not only does TV stop people talking; **but it also** levels their minds.

BESIDES + ING

Besides stopping people talking, TV levels their minds.

TV stops people talking. **Furthermore/ moreover/ What's more/ in addition**, it levels their minds.

6. To express a consequence:

TV stops people talking. **And so**, it's not good for socializing.

Therefore,

Thus,

7. To express the cause of something:

TV is not good for socializing, **because/ as/ since** it stops people talking.

TV is not good for socializing. **In fact**, it stops people talking.

8. To explain your point.

TV is not good for your mind. **As a matter of fact/ actually**, it doesn't encourage your imagination...

TV doesn't let you think with your own mind. **In particular/ particularly/ especially** those programmes which present you only one side of the coin...

9. To exemplify: for example, for instance, such as..

10. To express simultaneous facts/ opinions:

TV is **both** amusing **and** informative.

TV **neither** encourages your imagination, **nor** helps you socializing.

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