

IELTS LINKING WORDS

To make contrasting points

- Killing endangered species is illegal; **nevertheless**, people will not stop hunting them.
- **In spite of the** fact that killing endangered species is illegal, people will not stop hunting them.
- Killing endangered species is illegal, **but** people will not stop hunting them.
- **While** killing endangered species is illegal, people will not stop hunting them.
- **Even** if killing endangered species is illegal, people will not stop hunting them.
- **Even though** killing endangered species is illegal, people will not stop hunting them.
- **Although** killing endangered species is illegal, people will not stop hunting them.
- Killing endangered species is illegal; **at the same time**, people will not stop hunting them.

To list points

- **Firstly**, the government must revise the out-of-date environmental laws which were written twenty years ago.
- **In the first place** the government must revise the out-of-date environmental laws which were written twenty years ago.
- **To start with**, the government must revise the out-of-date environmental laws which were written twenty years ago.
- **Secondly**, the government must revise the out-of-date environmental laws which were written twenty years ago.
- **Thirdly**, the government must revise the out-of-date environmental laws which were written twenty years ago.
- **Finally**, the government must revise the out-of-date environmental laws which were written twenty years ago.

To add more points on a topic

- **What is more**, the city should conduct inspections of zoos.
- The city should **also** conduct inspections of zoos.
- **Apart from this/that / In addition to this**, the city should conduct inspections of zoos.
- **Moreover / Besides**, the city should conduct inspections of zoos.
- The city should conduct inspections of zoos **too**.
- ... **not to mention the fact that** the city should conduct inspections of zoos.

To list advantages/disadvantages

- **One** of the greatest advantages of regular exercise is that it leads to a healthier lifestyle.
- **Another** great advantage of regular exercise is that it leads to a healthier lifestyle.
- **One other** advantage of regular exercise is that it leads to a healthier lifestyle.
- **A further** advantage of regular exercise is that it leads to a healthier lifestyle.
- **The main advantage** of regular exercise is that it leads to a healthier lifestyle.
- **The first/greatest** advantage of regular exercise is that it leads to a healthier lifestyle.

To express effect / phrases for result

- Lots of factories have closed down, **therefore**, many people have lost their jobs.
- Lots of factories have closed down; **thus**, many people have lost their jobs.
- Lots of factories have closed down; **consequently**, many people have lost their jobs.
- Lots of factories have closed down **so** many people have lost their jobs.
- Lots of factories have closed down; **as a consequence**, many people have lost their jobs.
- As a result, ... / Eventually, ...

To emphasise what you say

- **Clearly** research has proved that eating healthy foods and exercising regularly reduce the risk of heart disease.
- **Obviously**, research has proved that eating healthy foods and exercising regularly reduce the risk of heart disease.
- **Of course**, research has proved that eating healthy foods and exercising regularly reduce the risk of heart disease.
- **In particular**, researchers have proved that eating healthy foods and exercising regularly reduce the risk of heart disease.

To express reality

- **Actually**, the report states that most college graduates are interested in pursuing a Masters' degree in the future.
- **As a matter of fact**, the report states that most college graduates are interested in pursuing a Masters' degree in the future.
- **In practice** the report states that most college graduates are interested in pursuing a Masters' degree in the future.
- **The fact of the matter is** the report states that most college graduates are interested in pursuing a Masters' degree in the future.

To express difference between appearance and reality

- **On the face of it** the building looked safe, but after a detailed inspection it was reported to be in need of major structural repairs.
- **Apparently**, the building looked safe, but after a detailed inspection it was reported to be in need of major structural repairs.

To state an argument against your opinion

- **It is popularly believed that** the teaching profession needs more qualified educators.
- **People often claim that** the teaching profession needs more qualified educators.
- **It is often alleged that** the teaching profession needs more qualified educators.
- **It is fact that** the teaching profession needs more qualified educators.

To state other people's opinions

- **Some people argue that** the mayor's proposal to raise local taxes is unfair.
- **A lot of people think/believe that** the mayor's proposal to raise local taxes is unfair.

To introduce the other side of the argument

- **However, there are people** who believe that increasing the school year will only overwork students.
- **Those who oppose** increase the school year claim that it will only overwork students.

To express balance

- **On the one hand** working for a large company is prestigious, but it can be very stressful.
- Working for a large company is prestigious, but **on the other hand** it can be very stressful.
- John is a hard-working person, **whereas** Ann isn't.

To give examples

- **For example**, in the past six months retailers have reported a 25% drop in sales of electronic equipment.
- For instance, ... / In particular, ... / To illustrate, ...

To refer to what actually happens

- **In effect** consumers spend more money on luxury items.

To make general statements

- **Generally**, girls get better exam results than boys.
- **In general**, girls get better exam results than boys.
- **As a general rule**, girls get better exam results than boys.
- **On the whole**, girls get better exam results than boys.

To make partly correct statements

- Considering the high rate of unemployment, some companies have, **up to a point**, tried to create more positions.
- Considering the high rate of unemployment, some companies have, **to a certain extent**, tried to create more positions.
- Considering the high rate of unemployment, some companies have, **in a way**, tried to create more positions.
- Considering the high rate of unemployment, some companies have, **in a sense**, tried to create more positions.

To express limit of knowledge

- **To the best of my knowledge**, residents were opposed to the city's plan to build a nuclear power plant in their area.
- **For all I know** residents were opposed to the city's plan to build a nuclear power plant in the area.

To rephrase

- **That is to say**, they disagree with the manager's decision.

To bring up other points or aspects

- **Regarding the community**, the area is in need of a new elementary school.
- **With regards** to the community, the area is in need of a new elementary school.
- **As for** the community, the area is in need of a new elementary school.

To express personal opinion

- **To my mind/way of thinking**, department stores offer a greater selection of clothes than small boutiques.
- **I personally believe** department stores offer a greater selection of clothes than small boutiques.
- **It strikes me that** department stores offer a greater selection of clothes than small boutiques.
- **I feel very strongly that** department stores offer a greater selection of clothes than small boutiques.
- **I am inclined to believe that** department stores offer a greater selection of clothes than small boutiques.
- **It seems to me that** department stores offer a greater selection of clothes than small boutiques.
- **As far as I am concerned** department stores offer a greater selection of clothes than small boutiques.

To refer to other sources

- **With reference to**, this report, that brand of sun cream causes irritation to sensitive skin.

To express cause

- **Because of** the harsh winter, many crops were destroyed.
- **Owing to** the harsh winter, many crops were destroyed.
- **For this reason**, many crops were destroyed.

To imply that nothing else needs to be said

- **Anyway**, a new community centre will greatly benefit the people of the town.
- **In any case**, a new community centre will greatly benefit the people of the town.

Accepting the situation

- **As it is**, the situation cannot be improved.
- **Things being as they are**, the situation cannot be improved.

To conclude

- **Finally**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **Lastly**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **Above all**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **All in all**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **Taking everything into account**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **On the whole**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **All things considered**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **In conclusion**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **As I have said**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **As was previously stated**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.
- **To sum up**, the university offers a wide range of courses and provides modern facilities.