

Transition words and sentences connectors

EXERCISE 1

a) Read the following composition and fill in the blanks with a word or expression in the box:

although to sum up such as secondly like personally besides think so firstly just

“Top sports people earn too much money nowadays”.

In most countries today top sports people, _____ (1) footballers, tennis players and basketball players, get enormous salaries. In a week they often earn more than ordinary people in a year. Is this really too much? _____ (2) I don't _____ (3). _____ (4), the active life of a professional sports person is relatively short – they often retire when they are in their mid-thirties. _____ (5), many of them don't even play that long, as they often get injured, which means they have to retire early. _____ (6), _____ (7) their salaries are very high they are not much higher than those of other successful people in the entertainment industry _____ (8) pop singers, actors or TV personalities, whose professional careers can last for fifty years. Sport today is watched by millions of people, so it should be considered entertainment _____ (9) like the cinema or TV. _____ (10), I think that top sports people's high salaries are not unfair if you compare them with people doing similar jobs.

b) Choose the connectives

1. _____ I met my former boyfriend, I never really understood the meaning of the word unreliable.

Where

Before

First of all

2. One reason people have dogs is for companionship; _____ is for protection.

once

frequently

another

3. _____ Angry Birds is a new game; it has quickly become very popular.

Although

When

In the same way

4. There's no room in your mouth for your wisdom teeth, _____ they will have to be removed.

for example

so

but

5. Once the referee's back was turned, the manager of “The Demented Shadow” placed a foreign object _____ his boxer's glove.

such as

just like

inside

6. Turtles stay in their shells when they are frightened. _____ dogs put their tails between their legs in frightening situations.

After

Similarly

Therefore

EXERCISE 2

a) Here you will find another example of opinion composition. Read it carefully and complete with the words in the box:

furthermore	recently	as a result	in conclusion	on the other hand
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“Genetic engineering brings with it more dangers than benefits and should be banned worldwide”. Discuss.

_____ (1), advances in science have demonstrated to us that things that once seemed possible only in science fiction could become a reality. The cloning of a sheep brought the possibility of using genetic engineering to create new organs, or even whole human beings, one step closer.

We have no idea how an artificially-created person might behave, or indeed how he or she might suffer. _____ (2), we may find ourselves in a position which we do not like, but which we are unable to reverse.

_____ (3), many people would say that it is not for human beings to decide what other human beings should be like. It is not only people with deep religious beliefs who feel that it is wrong, for example, for parents to choose whether their baby will be a boy or a girl, or have blue eyes or musical talent.

_____ (4), the latest research in genetics has also opened the possibility of new treatment for many diseases which up to now have been incurable. If doctors could replace a diseased organ with a new one grown from cells, should it not be allowed?

_____ (5), I would say that genetic engineering has the potential to be both a huge benefit and a terrible curse for humankind. To make sure that we benefit from it, it will be necessary to control it very strictly. The real challenge will be to find ways of monitoring the research that is conducted in laboratories all over the world and to make sure that it is only used for the good of everyone.

b) Choose the best conjunction from the list below to join together the following short sentences. Use a variety of conjunctions and watch out for meaning!

Where	before	after	until	since	when
whenever	while	although	though	whether	as

For example: I want to go to the cinema. I am quite tired.
I want to go to the cinema, **although** I am quite tired.

1. He checked that the road was clear. He drove away.

2. It was extremely dark. The lights were switched off.

3. I can't be certain. We may change our plans if the weather is good.

4. The girls were eating burgers. We saw them at lunchtime.

5. I thought that he was the thief. I can't really be sure.

6. They have been much happier. They won the lottery last year.

EXERCISE 3

Read the essay and, for each blank, decide which two of the three given answers are right and which wrong.

“Who learns faster - children or adults?”

Small children seem to learn very quickly, _____ (1) adults sometimes appear to lose the ability to pick up new subjects such as languages, music, games, or computer programs. In this essay, I will discuss _____ (2) children or adults make the best learners.

It is _____ (3) that children seem to learn very quickly. In just a few years, they can learn how to play a musical instrument, speak one or even two new languages, and deal with many subjects at school. They _____ (4) have time for sports and hobbies, and become experts in their favorite pastimes. _____ (5), how much of this is social pressure and how much is genetic? I am convinced that while children's brains have a natural ability to absorb new information as part of their developmental growth, much of their achievement is because of social pressure. Schools force them to take many subjects. Parents force them to practice new sports or to learn music. Even their playmates force them to become better at computer games or to read Harry Potter novels faster. _____ (6), children may enjoy learning, but their environment also is a big motivating factor.

Adults _____ (7) are supposed to be poor learners. _____ (8), I disagree with people who say that adults cannot learn quickly. Adults have many skills that compensate for the decline in the ability of the brain to grasp and remember new material. They can organize their learning by setting times for reading or practice. They can build on skills and experiences they know already. Adults usually cannot learn to do ballet or to play the violin, but _____ (9) these physical challenges, their motivation can often be higher than a child's. _____ (10), society does not encourage many adults to learn. People are busy with families and work, and some adults may feel that further learning is pointless, _____ (11) they have already achieved many goals at work or in their personal life.

_____ (12), I feel that we cannot generalize about children or adults being better learners. It depends on the situation and the motivation of the person, and the level of enthusiasm he or she has for learning.

1 while whereas since	2 if whereas whether	3 obvious undoubtedly true completely truth
4 even even though also	5 despite nevertheless however	6 as regards in summary to sum up
7 on the contrary opposite on the other hand	8 however although nevertheless	9 even in spite of even though even despite
10 unfortunately unluckily unlikely	11 furthermore since due to the fact that	12 in summary to cut a long story short in conclusion

EXERCISE 4

Complete the essay with the linking words below. You can use one word a few times.

*therefore however although in general also furthermore secondly even though but
in the first place not only*

Studying a language in a country where it is widely spoken has many advantages. It is
1 _____ a good idea to study English in a country such as Britain.
2 _____, I believe it is not the only way to learn the language.
3 _____, most students in non- English-speaking countries learn English
at secondary school and sometimes at university nowadays, 4 _____
their spoken English is not usually of very high standard, their knowledge of grammar is often
quite advanced. This is certainly useful when students come to an English-speaking country to
perfect the language.
5 _____, studying the basics of English at secondary school is less
stressful than learning the language while overseas. This is because students living at home do
not have to worry about problems such as finding accommodation, paying for their study
and living costs, and trying to survive in a foreign country where day to day living causes
much stress.
6 _____, there are obvious advantages of learning English in Britain.
Every day there are opportunities to practise listening to and speaking with British people.
7 _____, students can experience the culture first-hand, which is a great
help when trying to understand the language. This is especially true if they choose to live with
a British family, as exchange students for example, 8 _____, if students
attend a language school full-time, the teachers will be native speakers. In this case,
9 _____ will students speaking and listening skills improve,
10 _____ attention can be given to developing reading and writing skills
as well.
11 _____, 12 _____ it is preferable to study English
in an English speaking country, a reasonable level of English can be achieved in one's own
country, if a student is gifted and dedicated to study.