Linking words in IELTS Writing

Tilmashq

One-page cheat sheet · Coherence & Cohesion

> **A linker does not create logic, it labels it. Band 6: many, mechanical, sometimes wrong. Band 7: accurate, varied, and part of the linking done without linkers.**

Three types — three sentence patterns

1. Adverbs — new sentence

however, therefore, moreover, in addition, as a result, nevertheless, in contrast

`X. However, Y.` default
`X; however, Y.` short, close ideas
`X. Y, however, Z.` after the subject
✗ X, however Y — comma splice (Grammar)

2. Conjunctions — + clause

although, even though, while, whereas, because, since, so, but, unless, if

`Although X, Y.`
`Y although X.` no comma
`X, whereas Y.` compare two facts
✗ Although X, but Y — one per contrast

3. Prepositions — + noun

despite, in spite of, because of, due to, owing to, as a result of, in addition to, instead of

`Despite the high cost, …`
`Despite being expensive, …`
`due to the storm`
✗ despite of · due to prices are high

One idea, three ways — this is your range

Meaning	Adverb	Conjunction	Preposition
Contrast	Fees are high. However, demand is growing.	Although fees are high, demand is growing.	Despite high fees, demand is growing.
Cause → result	Fuel became cheaper. As a result, car use rose.	Car use rose because fuel became cheaper.	Car use rose due to cheaper fuel.
Addition	Cycling is cheap. In addition, it improves health.	Cycling is not only cheap but also healthy.	In addition to being cheap, cycling improves health.
Comparison	Cities grew. In contrast, villages shrank.	Cities grew, whereas villages shrank.	Unlike cities, villages shrank.

Mix-ups the examiner spots at once

✗ Don't write	Why	✓ Write
Meanwhile, private schools are expensive.	meanwhile = at the same time	However, / By contrast,
On the contrary, villages shrank.	rejects the previous claim, doesn't compare	In contrast, / By contrast,
On the other hand, it is also cheap.	introduces the other side, not one more point	In addition, / Moreover,
Moreover, some people disagree.	moreover continues the same line; this is a turn	However, / Nevertheless,
As a result of, the air is cleaner.	preposition — needs a noun	As a result, … / As a result of the ban, …
Even if many people use cars, …	even if = hypothetical	Even though …
Besides, … / Also, … (sentence start)	too informal	In addition, / Moreover,
On my opinion · According to me · From one side	direct translation	In my view, · On the one hand …

Cohesion without linkers (band 7+)

- **This / these + noun:** This policy… These changes… — never a bare *This*
- **Such + noun:** Such measures are rarely popular.
- **…, which** means that / leads to… — a result without *Therefore*
- **Synonyms:** young people → the younger generation → teenagers

Before you hand in — 30-second check

- Is there a real contrast / result behind every linker?
- 6–8 linkers per 270 words — about one every 2nd–3rd sentence
- Adverb → full stop before it; preposition → noun after it
- Each contrast word appears at most once or twice