

Linking Words (although, however, because of...) – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 38



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Exercise 1: Choose the linking word

Complete each sentence with a word or phrase from the box. You can use some words more than once. Two words are not needed.

Example: I was late ____ I missed the bus. → because

WORD BOX

although however because because of so but in spite of unless in order to

1. We stayed at home _____ the heavy rain.
2. _____ she was tired, Maria went to the party.
3. The hotel was expensive. _____, the staff were very friendly.
4. I didn't call you _____ my phone battery was dead.
5. It was getting late, _____ we decided to take a taxi.
6. Tom finished the race _____ his injured knee.
7. I'd like to come, _____ I have to work tomorrow.
8. "Why did you leave early?" " _____ I had a headache."

Exercise 2: Match the halves

Match each sentence beginning with the correct ending from the box.

WORD BOX

I didn't feel bored. the strong wind. he still can't speak Spanish well. she was late for work.
Amira gave an excellent speech. they wanted a quieter life. most students passed it.

9. Although the film was very long, → _____
10. We couldn't play tennis because of → _____
11. Leo has lived in Spain for years. However, → _____
12. She missed the bus, so → _____
13. Despite feeling nervous, → _____
14. They moved to the countryside because → _____
15. The test was difficult, but → _____

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence using the word or phrase in brackets. Keep the meaning the same.

Example: I was tired, but I couldn't sleep. (Although) → Although I was tired, I couldn't sleep.

16. It was cold, but we went swimming. (although)

17. The flight was delayed because the weather was bad. (because of)

18. Sara studied hard, but she failed the exam. (however)

19. It rained, but the match continued. (despite)

20. I was hungry, so I made a sandwich. (because)

21. Although it was noisy, the baby slept. (in spite of)

22. Did you stay at home because it was raining? (because of)

23. My brother is very rich. He isn't happy. (although)

Exercise 4: Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

Example: We were late because of we missed the bus. → We were late because we missed the bus.

24. Although it was late, but we kept working.

25. We cancelled the picnic because the rain.

26. Despite of the cold, they walked to school.

27. However the price was high, I bought the jacket.

28. I couldn't sleep because of I drank too much coffee.

29. In spite of he was ill, he went to work.

30. It was very hot, because we opened all the windows.

31. Did you choose this school because of it is near your home?

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences. Add commas where needed.

Example: was / tired / although / she / she / kept / running → Although she was tired, she kept running.

32. although / the ticket / was / expensive / we / enjoyed / the concert

33. the match / was / cancelled / because of / the snow

34. she / didn't / go / to the party / because / she / felt / ill

35. despite / the traffic / we / arrived / on time

36. is / the restaurant / popular / because of / its / pizza / ?

37. the hotel was old. / however, / it / was / very clean

38. I / missed / the train / so / I / took / a taxi

Answer key – Linking Words (although, however, because of...) – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Choose the linking word

1. **because of**
'Because of' gives a reason and is followed by a noun phrase (the heavy rain).
2. **Although**
'Although' shows contrast and is followed by a full clause.
3. **However**
'However' starts a new sentence and is followed by a comma to show contrast.
4. **because**
'Because' gives a reason and is followed by a clause with a subject and verb.
5. **so**
'So' introduces a result.
6. **in spite of**
'In spite of' shows contrast and is followed by a noun phrase.
7. **but**
'But' joins two contrasting clauses in the same sentence.
8. **Because**
We answer a 'why' question with 'because' + clause.

Exercise 2: Match the halves

9. **I didn't feel bored.**
'Although' introduces a contrast: a long film, but not boring.
10. **the strong wind.**
'Because of' needs a noun phrase, not a clause.
11. **he still can't speak Spanish well.**
'However' shows a surprising contrast with the first sentence.
12. **she was late for work.**
'So' introduces the result of missing the bus.
13. **Amira gave an excellent speech.**
'Despite' + -ing shows a contrast with the main clause.
14. **they wanted a quieter life.**
'Because' is followed by a clause giving the reason.
15. **most students passed it.**
'But' joins two contrasting ideas.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

16. **Although it was cold, we went swimming.**
'Although' + clause replaces 'but'. Do not use both in one sentence.
17. **The flight was delayed because of the bad weather.**
After 'because of' we need a noun phrase: the bad weather.
18. **Sara studied hard. However, she failed the exam.**
'However' usually starts a new sentence and is followed by a comma.
19. **Despite the rain, the match continued.**
'Despite' is followed by a noun (the rain), not a clause.
20. **I made a sandwich because I was hungry.**
'Because' introduces the reason; 'so' introduces the result.
21. **In spite of the noise, the baby slept.**
'In spite of' needs a noun, so 'it was noisy' becomes 'the noise'.
22. **Did you stay at home because of the rain?**
In questions, 'because of' also needs a noun phrase: the rain.
23. **Although my brother is very rich, he isn't happy.**
'Although' joins the two contrasting ideas into one sentence.

Exercise 4: Correct the mistakes

24. **Although it was late, we kept working.**
Don't use 'although' and 'but' together in the same sentence.
25. **We cancelled the picnic because of the rain.**
Before a noun phrase we need 'because of', not 'because'.
26. **Despite the cold, they walked to school.**
The reviewer's answer is correct and already accepted, because the mistake is 'despite of', which must be either 'despite' or 'in spite of'.
27. **Although the price was high, I bought the jacket.**
'However' cannot join two clauses like this; use 'although'.
28. **I couldn't sleep because I drank too much coffee.**
Before a clause (subject + verb) we use 'because', not 'because of'.
29. **Although he was ill, he went to work.**
The reviewer's answer is correct and already accepted, and 'In spite of the fact that' + clause is added as another correct way to fix the single error.
30. **It was very hot, so we opened all the windows.**
Opening the windows is the result, so we need 'so'.
31. **Did you choose this school because it is near your home?**
'It is near your home' is a clause, so we use 'because'.

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

32. **Although the ticket was expensive, we enjoyed the concert.**
'Although' + clause can come at the start (with a comma) or in the middle.
33. **The match was cancelled because of the snow.**
'Because of' is followed by the noun phrase 'the snow'.
34. **She didn't go to the party because she felt ill.**
'Because' + clause gives the reason for the negative main clause.
35. **Despite the traffic, we arrived on time.**
'Despite' + noun shows an unexpected result.
36. **Is the restaurant popular because of its pizza?**
In a question, 'is' comes before the subject; 'because of' + noun phrase follows.
37. **The hotel was old. However, it was very clean.**
The reviewer's answer was already accepted, but the first sentence is now fixed as one chunk so that orders like 'The hotel was very clean. However, it was old.' are no longer possible.
38. **I missed the train, so I took a taxi.**
'So' introduces the result and usually has a comma before it.

Notes for teachers: Start by sorting the linkers into contrast, reason and result. Then focus on what follows each one: a clause (although, because) or a noun or -ing form (because of, despite, in spite of). Typical mistakes are 'although... but' in one sentence, 'because the rain', 'despite of', and using 'however' like 'although' to join two clauses. As a follow-up, ask learners to write a short paragraph about a difficult day using at least five different linkers.