

Connectives

Some dyslexic students and adults struggle with knowing how to start a piece of writing and how to place their thoughts and ideas in a logical sequence. In addition, a difficulty with spelling often means that a piece of written work does not reflect their verbal ability because they tend to stick with simple, safe spellings. For example instead of writing excellent they will write “good” because they can spell “good.”

The same can be said about their sentence structure; dyslexic students often stick to simple, concise sentences and, when they do extend sentences they tend to join them with connectives such as “and” or “because.” Again, this mars the quality of their written work.

The list of connectives that has been provided (see below) will help students of in Primary and Secondary schools to link sentences and improve the quality of their written work.

The use of connectives will need to be taught and therefore you could provide cloze exercise, where certain words have been omitted and the student has to insert an appropriate connective. Alternatively you could use a student’s own work and underline connectives such as “and,” “because” or “then” and ask the student to choose a more appropriate connective for the list.

Once the students understand what the connectives mean and have had a chance to practice using them they should be given the list to use every time they are engaged in written work until the skill becomes automatic.

Connectives

| Addition | Sequence | Consequence | Contrast |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>in addition similarly likewise as well as besides further more also moreover and then too not only ... but even besides this/that furthermore</p> | <p>first(ly) initially second(ly) etc. to begin with then next earlier/later after this/that following this/that afterwards</p> | <p>as a result thus therefore consequently it follows that thereby eventually then in that case admittedly</p> | <p>However on the other hand despite in spite of though although on the contrary otherwise yet instead of rather whereas nonetheless even though compared with in contrast alternatively</p> |
| Certainty | Condition | Definition | Summary |
| <p>obviously certainly plainly of course undoubtedly</p> | <p>if unless whether provided that for so that whether depending on</p> | <p>is refers to means that is consists of</p> | <p>in conclusion in summary lastly finally to sum up to conclude to recapitulate in short</p> |
| Example | Reason | Time | |
| <p>for instance one example for example just as in particular such as namely to illustrate</p> | <p>since as because (of) due to owing to the reason why in other words leads to</p> | <p>before since as until meanwhile at the moment when whenever as soon as just as</p> | |