

8.1 Sentence Structure: Coordination

A. Joining two clauses with a link word which indicates their relationship

Addition

Example:

The research data shows that platelet counts in dengue patients increased significantly after 48 hours. **Furthermore**, most of these patients were well enough to be discharged from hospital after seven days.

Parallel

Example:

France incurred heavy losses of lives, properties and resources as a result of World War 1. **Similarly**, Germany suffered economic losses because she was made to pay draconian reparation.

Contrast

Example:

Using method X gives us quick but sometimes inaccurate results. **On the other hand**, method Y yields slow but highly accurate results.

Therefore

Example:

Research has demonstrated that brain structure can be altered upon prolonged exposure to novel environments and experience. **Thus**, we expected differential engagements in media multitasking to correlate with brain structure.

Meanwhile

Example:

Cancer has been the number one killer disease in Singapore over the last ten years. **Meanwhile**, many researchers have been actively looking for its cure.

Ordering Points

Example:

What are the advantages of online learning? **Firstly**, no travelling is required as learning can take place from home. **Secondly**, students can interact more actively through functions like polls, chats and breakout rooms.

B. Joining two clauses of equal importance

Examples:

In the circumstances, the affected parties can notify the police **or** attempt to resolve the issue among themselves.

After being turned on for just three hours consecutively, the machine overheated, **then** stopped working.

The manufacturer had kept the factory's production capacity low, **but** it had little success in reducing the annual financial losses.

Some of the researchers were unconvinced by the lab results, **so** they decided to investigate the situation with an alternative method.

All the plans were executed, **yet** they had little impact on increasing investors' confidence.

Please note the following:

- With 'and', 'or', and 'then', the subject is usually not repeated.
- With 'but', 'so' and 'yet', it is usual to repeat the subject.)