

## CONNECTORS and LINKERS (= Conectores y nexos)

▪ Having one's mind made up (with your ideas, clear) is one thing, but another, more difficult thing is to express them properly, signalling the right relationship between the different sentences and parts of a sentences (or clauses). That's what connectors and linkers are used to: to establish the right meaning of sentences with other sentences or within each sentence. Using the wrong word may lead to misunderstanding, if not a complete loss of what we are saying. That is why mastering as many connectors as you can, may help you improve your understanding and expression in English.

▪ Most of these relationships or functions are achieved by means of **clauses** (= *proposiciones*), which are parts of sentences that would be "shaky and weak" (somehow semantically unfinished) without a main clause to accompany. Some other times they are introduced by **phrases** (= *sintagmas*), which are simply groups of words that do not belong to the sentences, syntactically speaking.

➤ Expressing PURPOSE or AIM (= Propósito o finalidad):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
"to" + infinitive	<i>para</i>	- He went to Scotland <u>to</u> learn English. - Ann stayed at home <u>to</u> rest.
"in order (not) to" + infinitive	<i>para (no)</i>	- She came to Spain <u>in order to</u> learn Spanish. - She left China <u>in order not to</u> speak Chinese.
"so as (not) to" + infinitive	<i>para (no)</i>	- She went to France <u>so as to</u> learn French. - She left Brazil <u>so as not to</u> hear Portuguese.
"so that" + sentence	<i>para que</i>	- There is a fire exit <u>so that</u> people <i>will/can</i> leave. - I'm buying some food <u>so that</u> we <i>can/will</i> have the fridge full. - I've lit the fire <u>so that</u> the house <i>will</i> warm. - They'll make an appointment <u>so that</u> we <i>won't</i> have to wait. - I left a note <u>so that</u> he <i>would</i> know where to find me.
"for" + gerund (V-ing)	<i>para</i>	- A knife is used <u>for</u> cutting. - Newspapers are used <u>for</u> reading

➤ **Expressing REASON or CAUSE** (= Razón o causa):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <b>because</b> ” + sentence	<i>porque</i>	I couldn't go then <u>because</u> I had to study.
“ <b>since</b> ” + sentence	<i>ya que, como</i>	<u>Since</u> there wasn't enough snow, they didn't go skiing.
“ <b>as</b> ” + sentence	<i>como</i>	<u>As</u> I am very busy studying for my exams, I won't go with you.
“ <b>for</b> ” + sentence	<i>ya que, puesto que, pues</i>	He isn't allowed to smoke <u>for</u> he is still a kid.
“ <b>for</b> ” + gerund (V-ing)	<i>por</i>	They put him in prison <u>for</u> stealing forbidden books.
“ <b>because of</b> ” + noun/pronoun	<i>a causa de, debido a</i>	We couldn't go <u>because of</u> the storm.
“ <b>due to</b> ” + noun/pronoun	<i>a causa de, debido a</i>	<u>Due to</u> his bad attitude, he lost his job.

➤ **Expressing RESULT or CONSEQUENCE** (= Resultado o consecuencia):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <b>so</b> ” + adjective/adverb + “ <b>that</b> ”	<i>tan...que</i>	We were <u>so</u> impatient <u>that</u> we couldn't wait for them.
“ <b>such</b> ” + (adjective) + noun + “ <b>that</b> ”	<i>tan...que</i>	- They had <u>such</u> a big dog <u>that</u> nobody dared to go near their house. - They had <u>such</u> big dogs <u>that</u> nobody went near their house.
“ <b>so many</b> ” + plural countable noun + “ <b>that</b> ”	<i>tantos/as...que</i>	There were <u>so many</u> people <u>that</u> we couldn't get into the pub.
“ <b>so much</b> ” + (singular) uncountable noun + “ <b>that</b> ”	<i>tanto/a...que</i>	He drank <u>so much</u> wine <u>that</u> he got drunk.
“ <b>so</b> ”	<i>así pues, así que, por eso</i>	The party was boring, <u>so</u> I left early.
“ <b>as a result/consequence of</b> ” + noun phrase	<i>como/a consecuencia de</i>	<u>As a result of</u> the war, the prices of oil and bread went up enormously.
“ <b>therefore</b> ”	<i>por lo tanto, por consiguiente</i>	- I think, <u>therefore</u> I am. - They saved the prize money from the

		lottery. <i>Therefore</i> , they were rich.
“ <i>thus</i> ”	<i>por lo tanto, así, de este modo, por consiguiente</i>	- It should be applied <i>thus</i> . - She refused to go along with it, <i>thus</i> provoking her classmates. - I was only 16 and <i>thus</i> unable to vote or drive.
“ <i>for this/that reason</i> ”	<i>por esta/esa razón</i>	I haven't eaten in 2 days. <i>For this reason</i> , I'm hungry.
“ <i>that's why</i> ”	<i>por esta/esa razón, ésa es la razón por la que/cual...</i>	I've been ill. <i>That's why</i> I didn't call.
“ <i>consequently</i> ”	<i>en consecuencia, como consecuencia, consecuentemente</i>	- Many of the university subjects available are not taught at high schools, and <i>consequently</i> , they may be unfamiliar.

➤ **Expressing CONDITION** (= Condición):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <i>if</i> ”	<i>si</i>	<i>If</i> you drink, don't drive.
“ <i>if not</i> ”	<i>si no</i>	<i>If</i> you <i>don't</i> study, you won't pass.
“ <i>unless</i> ”	<i>a menos que</i>	<i>Unless</i> you study, you won't pass.
“ <i>whether ... or...</i> ”	<i>Si ...o ....</i>	I don't know <i>whether</i> we'll stay <i>or</i> we'll go home.
“ <i>as long as</i> ”	<i>sólo si, siempre y cuando</i>	<i>As long as</i> you study, you may pass.
“ <i>providing that</i> ”	<i>mientras que, siempre y cuando</i>	She can come <i>providing that</i> you sleep in separate rooms.
“ <i>even if</i> ”	<i>aunque, incluso si</i>	<i>Even if</i> he started studying now, he wouldn't be ready for the exam tomorrow.

➤ **Expressing CONTRAST or CONCESSION** (= Contraste o concesión):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <i>but</i> ”	<i>pero</i>	He hadn't any money, <i>but</i> he got a ticket.
“ <i>however</i> ”	<i>sin embargo</i>	- He hadn't any money; <i>however</i> , he got a ticket. - He spent all his spare money. <i>However</i> , he still

		had his credit card.
“ <b>nevertheless</b> ”	<i>no obstante</i>	- He hadn't any money; <u>nevertheless</u> , he got a ticket. - He spent all his spare money. <u>Nevertheless</u> , he still had his credit card.
“ <b>nonetheless</b> ”	<i>no obstante</i>	- He hadn't any money; <u>nonetheless</u> , he got a ticket. - He spent all his spare money. <u>Nonetheless</u> , he still had his credit card.
“ <b>(al)though</b> ” + sentence	<i>aunque</i>	- <u>Although / Though</u> he hadn't any money, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>although / though</u> he hadn't any money.
“ <b>even though</b> ” + sentence	<i>aunque</i>	- <u>Even though</u> he hadn't any money, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>even though</u> he hadn't any money.
“ <b>in spite of</b> ” + noun/gerund/pronoun	<i>a pesar de</i>	- <u>In spite of</u> {not having any money/having no money}, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>in spite of</u> {not having any money/having no money}.
“ <b>despite</b> ” + noun/gerund/pronoun	<i>a pesar de</i>	- <u>Despite</u> {not having any money/having no money}, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>despite</u> {not having any money/having no money}.
“ <b>in spite of the fact that</b> ” + sentence	<i>a pesar de que</i>	- <u>In spite of the fact that</u> he hadn't any money, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>in spite of the fact that</u> he hadn't got any money.
“ <b>despite the fact that</b> ” + sentence	<i>a pesar de que</i>	- <u>Despite the fact that</u> he hadn't any money, he got a ticket. - He got a ticket <u>despite the fact that</u> he hadn't got any money.
“ <b>unlike</b> ”	<i>a diferencia de</i>	<u>Unlike</u> your mum, hers is more distant and colder.

“ <b>on the one hand</b> ”	<i>por un lado/ una parte</i>	<i>On the one hand</i> , reading is very enriching.
“ <b>on the other hand</b> ”	<i>por otro lado/ otra parte</i>	<i>On the other hand</i> , it can also be boring when you don't like what you must read.
“ <b>while</b> ”	<i>mientras que</i>	- British cars are small <u>while</u> American ones are long. - <u>While</u> British cars are small, American ones are long.
“ <b>whereas</b> ”	<i>mientras que</i>	- British cars are small <u>whereas</u> American ones are long. - <u>Whereas</u> British cars are small, American ones are long.

➤ **Adding MORE INFORMATION** (= Añadir más información):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <b>and</b> ”	<i>y</i>	I like eating pizza <u>and</u> vegetables.
“ <b>also</b> ”	<i>también</i>	I <u>also</u> like eating them.
“ <b>too</b> ”	<i>también</i>	I like eating them <u>too</u> .
“ <b>as well</b> ”	<i>también</i>	Do they like eating them <u>as well</u> ?
“ <b>as well as</b> ”	<i>además de</i>	I like eating pizza <u>as well as</u> vegetables.
“ <b>moreover</b> ”	<i>además, es más</i>	- It seems, <u>moreover</u> , that they were related. - She doesn't like eating any meat. <u>Moreover</u> , she hates raw fish.
“ <b>furthermore</b> ”	<i>además, es más</i>	- We can't judge him only by what we have heard; furthermore, we need to look into his motives. - She doesn't like eating any meat. <u>Furthermore</u> , she hates raw fish.
“ <b>besides</b> ”	<i>además /a parte de (eso) / excepto</i>	- I wasn't interested in the talk, <u>besides</u> I was feeling very tired. - No one knows <u>besides</u> you.
“ <b>in addition [to]</b> ”	<i>además [de]</i>	- We want some more books <u>in addition to</u> our previous order. - <u>In addition to</u> our previous order, we want some more books. - We made a previous order. <u>In addition</u> , we want to ask

		for some more books.
“ <b>apart from</b> ”	<i>aparte de</i>	- I like all kinds of pasta. <u>Apart from</u> that, he like little else.
“ <b>what’s more</b> ”	<i>lo que es más, además</i>	- He loves pasta, and <u>what’s more</u> , he owns an Italian restaurant.
“ <b>not only ..., but also ...</b> ”	<i>no solo ..., sino también...</i>	- <u>Not only</u> did he hit her, <u>but</u> he <u>also</u> he killed her.
“ <b>both ... and ...</b> ”	<i>tanto ... como....</i>	- Children like eating <u>both</u> pizza <u>and</u> chicken. - <u>Both</u> Mark <u>and</u> Jennifer like reading.
“ <b>neither ... nor ...</b> ”	<i>ni ... ni....</i>	- My grandmother likes <u>neither</u> pizza <u>nor</u> chicken. - <u>Neither</u> Mark <u>nor</u> Jennifer like smoking.
“ <b>either ... or ...</b> ”	<i>o ... o ....</i>	- We can eat <u>either</u> meat <u>or</u> fish. - <u>Either</u> you go <u>or</u> you stay. Make up your mind now!

➤ **PARAPHRASING** (= Parafrasear o decir las cosas de forma diferente):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <b>that is (to say)</b> ”	<i>es decir</i>	I like using eco-vehicles, <u>that is (to say)</u> , bicycles and skateboards.
“ <b>in other words</b> ”	<i>en otras palabras</i>	You have serious doubts about what I am saying; in other words, you don’t trust me.

➤ **QUALIFYING what you are saying** (= Matizar las cosas que se dicen):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <b>more or less</b> ”	<i>más o menos</i>	She is <u>more or less</u> old. She’s 60 years old.
“ <b>approximately</b> ”	<i>aproximadamente</i>	The film will be released <u>approximately</u> by that date.
“ <b>at least</b> ”	<i>al menos, por lo menos, como mínimo</i>	- She must be <u>at least</u> 18 to pass the driving license. - She must be 18 <u>at least</u> to pass the driving license. - <u>At least</u> , she must be 18 to pass the driving license.
“ <b>above all</b> ”	<i>sobre todo</i>	I put honesty <u>above all</u> other virtues.
“ <b>that is (to say)</b> ”	<i>es decir</i>	I like using eco-vehicles, <u>that is (to say)</u> , bicycles and skateboards.
“ <b>in particular</b> ”	<i>en particular</i>	I like animals, <u>in particular</u> , dogs and parrots.
“ <b>basically</b> ”	<i>básicamente</i>	That’s <u>basically</u> the point she transmitted.
“ <b>especially</b> ”	<i>especialmente</i>	I am <u>especially</u> fond of her among all my friends.

➤ **Giving EXAMPLES** (= Dar ejemplos para clarificar alguna idea):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <i>for example</i> ”	<i>por ejemplo</i>	I like playing sports, <i>for example</i> , football, basketball and volleyball.
“ <i>for instance</i> ”	<i>por ejemplo</i>	She underwent several illnesses, <i>for instance</i> , flu, smallpox and chickenpox.
“ <i>such as</i> ”	<i>[tal] como</i>	I have read authors <i>such as</i> Dan Brown, Noah Gordon, Stephenie Meyer and J.K. Rowling.
“ <i>like</i> ”	<i>como</i>	A man <i>like</i> him belongs on the stage.

➤ **Ordering logically YOUR IDEAS** (= Ordenar lógicamente tus ideas):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <i>First of all</i> ”	<i>antes que nada, [lo] primero [de todo]</i>	<i>First of all</i> , the aims of my work must be introduced.
“ <i>First and foremost</i> ”	<i>ante todo, lo primero y más importante</i>	<i>First and foremost</i> , I am thankful for all the people who supported my decision.
“ <i>In the first place</i> ”	<i>en primer lugar</i>	<i>In the first place</i> , I have to mention the sources I used to get the information.
“ <i>Firstly</i> ”	<i>primeramente, en primer lugar</i>	<i>Firstly</i> , I am going to establish the advantages of a smoke-free environment.
“ <i>To start with</i> ”	<i>para empezar</i>	<i>To start with</i> , you will say hello and introduce yourself.
“ <i>In the second place</i> ”	<i>en segundo lugar</i>	<i>In the second place</i> , I will mention why this information is important for me.
“ <i>Secondly</i> ”	<i>en segundo lugar</i>	<i>Secondly</i> , I will mention why this information is important for me.
“ <i>last but not least</i> ”	<i>por ultimo, pero no por ello menos importante</i>	And <i>last but not least</i> I want to show my acknowledgement of the vast collaboration of my parents and wife.
“ <i>Finally</i> ”	<i>finalmente, por último</i>	And <i>finally</i> , I want to end by quoting a famous saying: “ <i>Long absent, soon forgotten</i> ”

➤ **SUMMARISING** (= Resumir lo que se ha dicho):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <i>in conclusion</i> ”	<i>para concluir</i>	<i>In conclusion</i> , life is difficult, but funny.
“ <i>in general</i> ”	<i>en general</i>	<i>In general</i> , life generally treats people unfairly.
“ <i>to sum up</i> ”	<i>para resumir, resumiendo</i>	<i>To sum up</i> , being polite and nice is what matters.
“ <i>to conclude</i> ”	<i>para concluir</i>	<i>To conclude</i> , life is a gift we must spend wisely.
“ <i>in short</i> ”	<i>en resumen</i>	<i>In short</i> , treat others like you would like to be treated.

➤ **Expressing YOUR PERSONAL OPINION:**

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <i>in my opinion/view</i> ”	<i>en mi opinión</i>	<i>In my opinion</i> terrorists should be prosecuted.
“ <i>from my point of view</i> ”	<i>desde mi punto de vista</i>	<i>From my point of view</i> serious criminals should be punished according to their crimes they have committed.
“ { <i>as/the way</i> } <i>I see it</i> ”	<i>a mi modo de ver, tal como yo lo veo, a mi entender/parecer</i>	<i>As I see it</i> you are wrong.
“ <i>as far as I’m concerned</i> ”	<i>por lo que a mi respecta</i>	<i>As far as I am concerned</i> pet owners are accountable for their pets’ behaviour.
“ <i>I think/believe/guess/consider</i> ” + (that) + sentence	<i>pienso, creo, supongo, considero que</i>	<i>I consider (that)</i> everybody can make their own choices.

➤ **Expressing FACTS** (= Expresando hechos):

STRUCTURE	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLES
“ <i>as a matter of fact</i> ”	<i>de hecho</i>	I don’t like vegetables; <i>as a matter of fact</i> , I never eat them.
“ <i>in fact</i> ”	<i>de hecho</i>	I don’t like vegetables; <i>in fact</i> , I never eat them.
“ <i>actually</i> ”	<i>en realidad</i>	I don’t <i>actually</i> like vegetables..