

# 50 Essential B2 English Connectors Reference Guide

Master your Cambridge B2 First writing and Use of English exams with high-level cohesive devices

**Pro-Tip for Students:** Don't just memorize these lists. Group them by function and try using two new connectors from each table in your next practice essay. Let Alfie check your grammar instantly at [passfirst.site](https://passfirst.site).

## 1. Addition Connectors (Adding Points)

| Connector                   | Meaning / Usage                 | Example Sentence                                              |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Furthermore</b>          | In addition (formal)            | <i>The course is affordable; furthermore, it is flexible.</i> |
| <b>Moreover</b>             | Adding a stronger point         | <i>She is hardworking; moreover, she is a great leader.</i>   |
| <b>In addition to</b>       | Besides (followed by noun/-ing) | <i>In addition to studying, he works part-time.</i>           |
| <b>Besides</b>              | Other than / as well            | <i>Besides English, she speaks fluent French.</i>             |
| <b>What is more</b>         | Emphasizing an extra point      | <i>The hotel was cheap. What is more, it had a pool.</i>      |
| <b>Not only... but also</b> | Emphasizing a dual point        | <i>Not only did he pass, but he also got a Grade A.</i>       |
| <b>As well as</b>           | Along with                      | <i>He enjoys reading, as well as playing football.</i>        |
| <b>Too</b>                  | Also (at the end of a clause)   | <i>I want to go to the concert too.</i>                       |
| <b>Also</b>                 | In addition                     | <i>She plays the piano and she also sings.</i>                |
| <b>On top of that</b>       | Informal addition               | <i>We missed our train, and on top of that, it rained.</i>    |

## 2. Contrast Connectors (Showing Opposition)

| Connector                | Meaning / Usage                     | Example Sentence                                             |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>However</b>           | But / nevertheless                  | <i>It was raining; however, we still went hiking.</i>        |
| <b>Although</b>          | Despite the fact that               | <i>Although it was cold, we enjoyed the walk.</i>            |
| <b>Even though</b>       | Stronger contrast than although     | <i>Even though she studied hard, the exam was tough.</i>     |
| <b>Despite</b>           | In spite of (followed by noun/-ing) | <i>Despite the traffic, we arrived on time.</i>              |
| <b>In spite of</b>       | Synonym of despite                  | <i>In spite of feeling tired, she finished her project.</i>  |
| <b>On the other hand</b> | Presenting an alternative view      | <i>City life is fast. On the other hand, it offers jobs.</i> |
| <b>Whereas</b>           | Comparing two things                | <i>Mark loves science, whereas his sister prefers art.</i>   |
| <b>While</b>             | Although / at the same time         | <i>While I understand your point, I disagree.</i>            |
| <b>Conversely</b>        | In an opposite way                  | <i>Prices went up; conversely, sales decreased.</i>          |
| <b>Nevertheless</b>      | Despite that                        | <i>The task was complex; nevertheless, we solved it.</i>     |

### 3. Cause & Effect Connectors (Results & Reasons)

| Connector           | Meaning / Usage               | Example Sentence                                             |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Therefore</b>    | Consequently / as a result    | <i>She practiced daily; therefore, she improved fast.</i>    |
| <b>Consequently</b> | As a result of an action      | <i>He missed the bus; consequently, he was late.</i>         |
| <b>As a result</b>  | Because of this               | <i>The flight was canceled; as a result, we stayed home.</i> |
| <b>Due to</b>       | Because of (followed by noun) | <i>The match was postponed due to bad weather.</i>           |
| <b>Because of</b>   | Attributing a cause           | <i>We stayed indoors because of the storm.</i>               |
| <b>Since</b>        | Because / seeing that         | <i>Since you are here, can you help me?</i>                  |
| <b>As</b>           | Because / since               | <i>As it was getting late, we decided to leave.</i>          |
| <b>Hence</b>        | For this reason               | <i>Production costs decreased; hence, prices dropped.</i>    |
| <b>Thus</b>         | In this way / therefore       | <i>He read widely, thus expanding his vocabulary.</i>        |
| <b>Leading to</b>   | Resulting in                  | <i>Sales grew rapidly, leading to higher profits.</i>        |

### 4. Sequence Connectors (Ordering Ideas & Steps)

| Connector                     | Meaning / Usage                 | Example Sentence                                        |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Firstly / First of all</b> | To start an argument            | <i>Firstly, we must analyze the problem.</i>            |
| <b>Secondly</b>               | For the second point            | <i>Secondly, consider the cost implications.</i>        |
| <b>Furthermore</b>            | Moving to the next point        | <i>Furthermore, safety regulations must be met.</i>     |
| <b>Finally</b>                | To conclude the steps           | <i>Finally, submit your application online.</i>         |
| <b>Afterwards</b>             | Later / after an event          | <i>We had dinner and afterwards went to the cinema.</i> |
| <b>Meanwhile</b>              | At the same time                | <i>John cooked dinner; meanwhile, I set the table.</i>  |
| <b>Subsequently</b>           | Afterwards / following an event | <i>The law was passed and subsequently revised.</i>     |
| <b>At this point</b>          | At the present moment           | <i>At this point, we need more volunteers.</i>          |
| <b>Next</b>                   | Following that                  | <i>Complete the form and next click submit.</i>         |
| <b>Then</b>                   | After that                      | <i>Think about your goals, then make a plan.</i>        |

### 5. Exemplification Connectors (Giving Examples)

| Connector            | Meaning / Usage           | Example Sentence                                        |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>For example</b>   | To give an instance       | <i>Renewable energy, for example, solar power...</i>    |
| <b>For instance</b>  | Synonym of for example    | <i>Some sports, for instance, rugby, can be tough.</i>  |
| <b>Such as</b>       | Giving examples of a noun | <i>I like outdoor sports such as tennis and hiking.</i> |
| <b>Including</b>     | Containing as part of     | <i>The fee covers meals, including breakfast.</i>       |
| <b>Particularly</b>  | Especially / specifically | <i>She loves art, particularly modern painting.</i>     |
| <b>In particular</b> | Specifically              | <i>I enjoy music, in particular acoustic rock.</i>      |

| Connector                 | Meaning / Usage               | Example Sentence                                      |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Namely</b>             | Specifically / that is to say | <i>Two students passed, namely Anna and Leo.</i>      |
| <b>As an illustration</b> | To demonstrate a point        | <i>Prices dropped sharply, as an illustration...</i>  |
| <b>To illustrate</b>      | Showing an example            | <i>To illustrate this point, let us look at data.</i> |
| <b>In the case of</b>     | Regarding a specific instance | <i>In the case of delayed flights, refunds apply.</i> |

### Ready to boost your Cambridge B2 First score?

Test your writings instantly against official Cambridge rubrics with Alfie, your AI tutor, at [passfirst.site](https://passfirst.site).