

How to Use Fewer Linkers in Our Writing

I have often seen IELTS candidates overuse linkers, especially at the start of the sentences. I want to call this ‘**an addiction to linkers.**’ If we write 12 sentences in our essays and 8 are connected directly with linkers, our CC score will likely be limited to band 6 because this seems quite mechanical. Now the question is, are there more ways, in addition to linkers, to connect our sentences in our essays?

In the following, I introduced **five techniques** for combining sentences without directly using a linker. Learn these methods to reduce the number of linkers in your essay to **three to four times** for band 7 or higher in CC.

Technique 1:

You can use the repetition of keywords across sentences to create a natural flow and connection between ideas.

Example: The economic downturn affected various industries. The technology sector, in particular, experienced a significant decline.

Note how “**the technology sector**” links to “**various industries.**” Now, the two sentences are meaningfully connected without any linkers.

Technique 2:

You can use pronouns (he, she, it, they) and demonstratives (this, that, these, those) effectively to refer back to previously mentioned ideas.

Example: The experiment yielded a positive result. This was unexpected.

Note how ‘**this**’ refers back to ‘**result**’ and links the two sentences.

Technique 3:

You can vary sentence structures, incorporating a mix of simple, compound, and complex sentences. This variation can naturally link ideas without the need for explicit connectors.

Example: The team worked tirelessly to meet the deadline. Despite facing numerous challenges, they successfully completed the project.

Note that the first sentence has a simple structure, and the second sentence is complex because it has a subordinating clause (Despite facing numerous challenges) that connects the two sentences in meaning.

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Technique 4:

You can also use relative clauses or their reduced forms to link sentences without using linkers. This works splendidly when you are reporting the effects of different actions.

Examples of two sentences connected directly with a linker:

The company implemented new efficiency measures in its production process. **Therefore**, overall productivity increased by 20%.

Examples of the same sentences without using any linkers:

Combined with 'leading to...':

The company implemented new efficiency measures in its production process, **leading to** an overall productivity increase of 20%.

Combining with 'which led to...':

The company implemented new efficiency measures in its production process, **which led to** a 20% overall productivity increase.

Note that you can also combine these sentences using:

- 'which caused...'
- 'causing...'
- 'which resulted in...'
- 'resulting in...'

Technique 5:

To add main ideas in a paragraph, in addition to adverbs such as 'moreover' or 'in addition,' we can use the following phrases to create a structure for the reader to follow. These transitional phrases act as the subject of the sentences, introducing the main points or reasons for our main idea or position.

- **One reason (for X) is that...**
- **One effect (of X) is that...**
- **One solution (for the problem of X) is that...**
- **An additional reason (for X) can be...**
- **An additional effect (of X) can be...**
- **An additional solution (for the problem of X) can be...**

Note the following examples: Each main idea should be further developed by adding supporting ideas.

One reason is that meditation can promote overall health and well-being. This is because....

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An additional reason is that a balanced diet plays a crucial role in maintaining a healthy weight. The reason is that...

I hope this has been helpful.

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