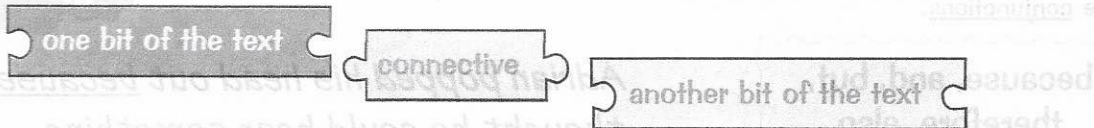


Connectives

Connectives are the words and phrases that connect the different parts of a text.

Connectives join bits of Text Together

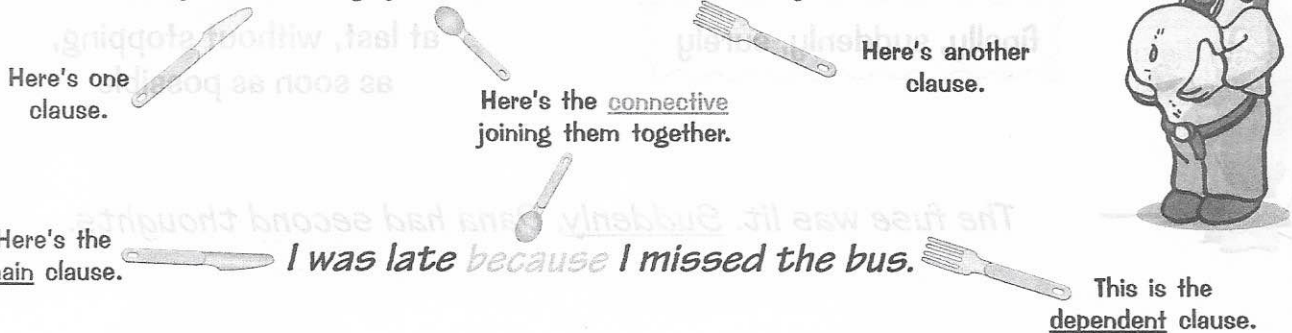
Connectives are the glue that holds a text together. They join clauses together in a sentence, and they join sentences together in a long piece of writing. Connectives don't have to be just one word. They can be phrases, like 'in other words' or 'just after that'.



Connectives join Clauses in a Sentence

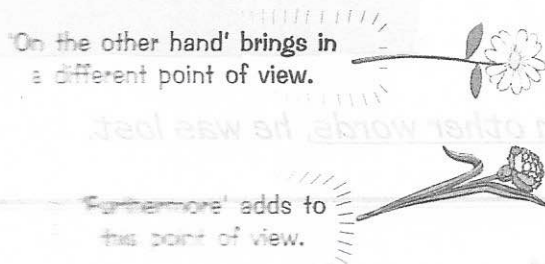
As well as joining words together, connectives join clauses together in a sentence. Some connectives join two clauses that are just as important as each other to make a compound sentence. Some connectives join a dependent clause onto a main clause.

Kenny was hungry, so he ate his own belly.



Connectives can Join Sentences in a Text

Connectives show how an argument goes by linking sentences together. You'll see this a lot in discussion articles in newspapers and in letters to newspapers.



The plans for the town square gardens will certainly bring more tourists to the town.

On the other hand, it may be several months before building work is completed.

Furthermore, the cost to the council, and to taxpayers, is likely to be great.

The commas here are a bit like brackets. See P. 15 for how they work.

Connectives

There are oodles of words that can be connectives — read on and see for yourself.

Several Word Classes can be Connectives

1) Connectives can be Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that join other words together.

These are conjunctions.

because, and, but,
therefore, also

Adrian popped his head out because he thought he could hear something.



2) Connectives can be Adverbs

Connective adverbs can be single words or adverb phrases.

These are all adverbs.

finally, suddenly, surely

These are adverb phrases.

at last, without stopping,
as soon as possible

The fuse was lit. Suddenly, Dana had second thoughts.



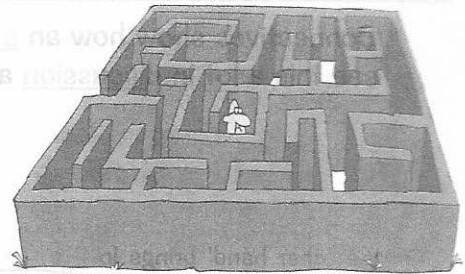
3) Connectives can be Preposition phrases

Connectives like this show the relationship between one sentence and the next. Prepositions are relationship words.

These are prepositions.

in other words, on the other hand

Wally wasn't sure where the exit was. In other words, he was lost.



It pays to be well connected...

This is quite a big topic to get your head round, I'm afraid. The problem is that connectives do so many different jobs in a text — and, to make matters worse, they aren't even one single class of word. Lots of different kinds of words and phrases can be connectives.