

TEXT PROCESSING STRATEGIES

Monitoring text cohesion

In a text there are often words and expressions that can help us to follow the development of the ideas. They are just like «landmarks» (a church tower, a monument, a pub at the corner of a street ...) that lead us along the road to our final destination ...

1. The words and expressions in *italics* in the following text are «linkers». They all express different *logical relationships* between ideas. Can you say exactly what *kind* of relationship? Choose from:

- the *addition* of an element to another
- the *cause* of or *reason* for a fact
- the *result* or *consequence* of a fact
- the *comparison* of two elements
- the *contrast* between two elements
- the passage of *time*
- the presentation of an *example*
- the *purpose* of something
- an *alternative*



BLACK AMERICAN MUSIC

Since the music of the American blacks has one of the strongest and richest traditions in music, it has influenced many generations of musicians. The slaves in the plantations of the deep south worked in time to the songs they sang, *so that* they could forget their hard labour. *However*, their songs were *also* encouraged by the slave-owners *because* they increased the slaves' output. The blacks were forced to adopt their owner's religion and *so* they created their own religious songs, called Negro spirituals, which were adapted from Protestant hymns. Their main theme was hope for a happier life.

When they were given their freedom, many blacks moved north *and* settled in ghettos. The «blues» is an

early form of music created by black people in America. It expresses the feelings of people who suffered much hardship and repression. *Therefore*, typical blues themes are those of unhappiness in love or despair in a poor existence.

Similarly, jazz was born in the poor areas of New Orleans where banjos and old Southern army instruments were played in funeral processions through the streets. *Later*, black musicians like Louis Armstrong became popular with white audiences, *too*, and *since then* jazz has influenced musicians all over the world. New styles continue to develop, *such as* Free Jazz, which is based on total improvisation.

2. Circle the «linkers» in the following text. The logical relationships they express are shown in brackets next to the lines where they appear.

AMERICAN BELIEFS

The thirteen original colonies were founded by people who had left Europe for both economic and religious reasons. Many went to America because they were persecuted for their religious beliefs in their own countries, and consequently there is a great variety of religions in the USA. As the Puritans wanted to establish their own religious state in Massachusetts, they would not accommodate any other religions. Although the Puritans were very strict, many other religions and sects developed in other parts of the United States. The Quakers, for instance, took refuge in Pennsylvania and the

(*addition*)
(*cause*)

(*result*)
(*cause*)

(*contrast*)

(*example*)

Catholics in Maryland. The Mormons managed to cross the Utah desert and eventually settled on the banks of the Great Salt Lake in 1847. Today they have about two million followers.

(*time*)

More recently, religious communities with only a few hundred members have been set up in rural areas. Besides, sects based on oriental religions flourish on the West coast, particularly in California.

(*time*)

(*addition*)

If you made a survey, you would find more than 300 different religions in the United States with millions of followers, including 80 million Protestants, 50 million Catholics and 6 million Jews.

(*example*)

(*condition*)

LANGUAGE POINT Some common «linkers»

From a grammatical point of view, «linkers» are mostly *conjunctions* or *adverbs*. Study the following examples.

	Conjunctions	Adverbs
<i>Addition</i>	They ate <i>and</i> drank all night. He <i>not only</i> wrote the letter, <i>but also</i> typed it.	I like swimming and I like tennis <i>too/as well</i> . I like swimming and I <i>also</i> like tennis. Mr Wilson is a bank manager. <i>Besides/Moreover</i> , he's the chairman of the golf club.
<i>Cause/Reason</i>	We called the doctor <i>because</i> Jim had a temperature. <i>As/Since</i> work was very scarce, they had to emigrate.	
<i>Result/Consequence</i>	Jim had a temperature, <i>so</i> we called the doctor.	There were heavy snowfalls. <i>Consequently/ Therefore/As a result</i> , the airport was closed.
<i>Contrast</i>	She's over 70, <i>but</i> she's still working. <i>Although</i> she is over 70, she's still working. Bob lives in a flat, <i>while/whereas</i> Liz has a cottage in the country.	She's over 70. <i>However</i> , she's still working.

(For more detailed information → *Study Book*, page 75)

3. Fill in the blanks with the following «linkers».

although so not only ... but also
since as a result as well while

TRIATHLON HITS THE GOOD TIMES

Swimming, biking and running have long been established sports. Combining them has created one of the toughest endurance events, arguably the ultimate outdoor challenge for men and women.

TRIATHLON started in Hawaii in 1978. The story goes that a few American military men were having some beers together one evening and became involved in a discussion about who among them might be the toughest long-distance athlete.

(1), a challenge was set up: it involved (2a) a swim in the ocean over about two miles (3.2 km), (2b) a 112-mile (180 km)

bike course and a full marathon at the end. The Hawaii Ironman Triathlon was born and, (3) the sports calendar has become full of triathlons of all kinds, it still is the most famous of all.

The colourful multi-sport of swim, bike and run has received world acclaim and is now an accepted part of the sporting scene. (4) the International Olympic Committee has awarded triathlon Olympic recognition it will probably be



included in the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996.

Europe is the leader in a great number of sports and there are many who believe that is the case for triathlon (5) Prizes and product endorsement are opening up a new world of possibilities for the competitors, (6) many professional triathletes can now earn a fair amount of money in many European countries.

An estimated half a million competitors now take part in thousands of

triathlons all over the world. Two races have become synonymous with the sport, the Hawaii Ironman and the Nice Triathlon. The two events could not be more different. In Hawaii, the lava fields and the intense heat make the Ironman one of the great endurance challenges, (7) on the Riviera the weather can vary by 20 degrees between sea level and the top of the bike climb.

4. Fill in the blanks with a suitable «linker». Each «linker» should express the logical relationship shown in brackets.

THE LIGHT BARRIER

by Isaac Asimov

Do other stars have planetary systems? Are there planets sufficiently similar to Earth to permit forms of life? We have not found life in our own solar system, except on Earth, (1) our solar system is only one of trillions, perhaps, and why should there not be life elsewhere? Intelligence, too, and even civilizations?

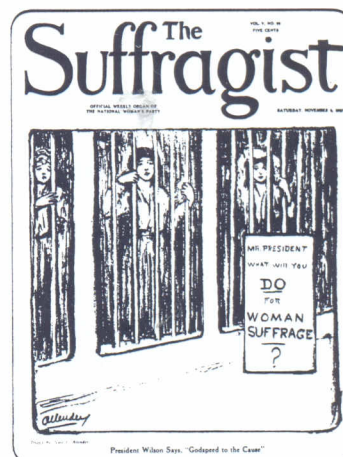
One's first hopeful thought is that distances tend to become smaller (2) technology advances. (3), it took Magellan almost exactly three years to circumnavigate the world, (4) it took the astronauts three days to go from Earth to the moon, a distance about 9.5 times the circumference of Earth. The average speed of the first astronauts was (5) about 3,500 times as great as the average speed of the first circumnavigators. Could we increase the speed of our interstellar spacecraft (6) they could travel 3,500 times faster than those of the Apollo program?

Reaching the moon in three days means an average rate of progress toward the moon of about 1.5 kilometers per second. (7) we increase that by 3,500 times, we can imagine ourselves traveling at an average rate of 5,250 kilometers per second. At that rate, it will still take about 250 years to reach Alpha Centauri, the nearest star.

Well, then, let's increase the speed by another 3,500-fold factor, and we will be moving a little over 18,000,000 kilometers per second. It will then take us only four weeks to reach Alpha Centauri.

(8), that can't be done so easily. Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity states that it is impossible for anything to travel faster than the speed of light in a vacuum. (9) the Special Theory has been checked innumerable times in the last ninety years, it has always been confirmed. (10), no physicist expects that we will ever be able to surpass the speed of light.

5. Fill in the blanks with a suitable «linker».



(contrast)

(cause)

(example)

(contrast)

(result)

(purpose)

(condition)

(contrast)

(contrast)

(result)

VOTES FOR WOMEN!

In the First World War (1914-18) women did a great deal for the war effort. (1)....., they made bullets and shells; they drove trams and buses; they kept farms and factories going while the men were away; they went to France and nursed wounded soldiers. (2)..... women were playing such an important role in the country, they had no right to vote. By 1917, (3)....., many people had changed their mind about women having the vote. (4)....., most people thought that (5)..... a man was forced to fight for his country at 18, he should vote when he was 21. (6)..... in 1918 a law was passed which gave all men the vote when they were 21. It (7)..... gave the vote to women when they were 30. Younger women did not get the vote (8)..... at that time this would have meant that there were more women than men voters. In 1928 women were given the vote at 21. Today the voting age for both men and women is 18.

6. Work in pairs. Complete the following sentences and paragraphs in different ways according to the «linkers» suggested. Then compare your answers with a different pair.

A

- Susan would like to change her job, *so/because/but*
- We haven't got much money for our holidays this year. *However/Besides*,
- Although/Since*, the tickets for the concert were sold out.
- We should try and reduce the gap between developed and developing countries *because/so that/if*
- Our environment is suffering from several serious problems. *Therefore/However/For instance*,

B

- *However*, we managed to arrive on time.
- Since* all shops were closed,
-, *so* they took the first flight home.
- *Moreover*, there was not even a traffic warden.
-, *so that* use of private cars may be discouraged.
- *For instance*, English is taught in primary schools in many countries.
- Although* medicine has greatly improved the quality of human life,
- *whereas* the south has a lot of unemployed young people.