

What Are Linking Words and Discourse Connectors?

Worksheet

Linking words and discourse connectors are transitional words (mais, cependant, ensuite, donc, d'ailleurs) that connect ideas, show relationships between thoughts, and guide the reader or listener through your argument or narrative.

Questions

1. Which connector shows contrast?

- A) ensuite
- B) donc
- C) cependant
- D) de plus

2. Complete: 'Je suis occupé. _____, je peux t'aider.'

- A) Donc
- B) Cependant
- C) D'abord
- D) Ensuite

3. What does 'donc' signal?

- A) Time sequence
- B) Logical conclusion
- C) Contrast
- D) Addition

4. Choose the right connector: 'Premièrement, j'ai mangé. _____, j'ai dormi.'

- A) Pourtant
- B) Ensuite
- C) Mais
- D) Cependant

5. Connect two contrasting ideas using 'cependant': 'I like French. It is difficult.'

6. Use 'ensuite' to show sequence: 'I studied. I took the exam.'

7. Add 'de plus' to expand an idea: 'French is beautiful. It opens doors.'

8. Define: What is a discourse connector?

9. Define: Use 'mais' in a sentence.

10. Define: What connector shows addition?

Answer Key

1. C) cependant — Cependant (however) shows opposition between ideas.
2. B) Cependant — Cependant bridges the contradiction — busy but willing to help.
3. B) Logical conclusion — Donc introduces the result or conclusion of prior statements.
4. B) Ensuite — Ensuite shows chronological order — what happened next.
5. J'aime le français. Cependant, c'est difficile. Cependant bridges two opposing thoughts Signals a shift from positive to challenging
6. J'ai étudié. Ensuite, j'ai passé l'examen. Ensuite shows chronological progression Reader follows the order of events
7. Le français est beau. De plus, il ouvre des portes. De plus adds supporting information Strengthens the argument with additional evidence
8. A word or phrase that links ideas and shows how thoughts relate — mais, cependant, ensuite, donc.
9. 'J'aime étudier, mais je suis fatigué.' (contrast)
10. De plus, également, en outre — they add related ideas or evidence.

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