

1.

secondly however so as a result thus consequently
all in all first of all finally

In Britain only 15% of dwellings are rented out to tenants, while another 15% are reserved by local authorities for families with low incomes. the vast majority of British families are forced by necessity to buy a house. Thirty years ago this was an undertaking which a family could embark on with a certain degree of equanimity since house prices were quite reasonable. Nowadays,, buying a house in Britain has become a traumatic experience., the price of houses has rocketed over the last ten years and people generally have to borrow a considerable amount of money from a building society or a bank., the interest rates charged by such institutions are so high that half a family's monthly income goes on paying back the debts on its house., the majority of houses were built before the Second World War and the buyer of a house is often faced with bills for costly repairs., purchasing a house is often regarded as a necessary evil rather than a desirable goal.

2.

therefore for example particularly in the first place moreover
in the same way consequently nevertheless secondly

The advocates of nuclear power stations ignore two important aspects which by far outweigh the advantages of nuclear energy., there is the enormous potential danger which nuclear power stations pose., if a nuclear power station was destroyed by a natural disaster such as an earthquake or was the object of a terrorist attack, the effects on the environment for hundreds of miles around would be horrendous. Admittedly, such disasters have failed to occur so far, but,, it would be foolish to conclude that such incidents can simply be discounted., it would be extremely rash to cast a blind eye to the risk of nuclear reactors melting down as a result of a mechanical fault or human error, since this has already happened at Chernobyl with such disastrous results., there is the intractable problem of what to do with the nuclear waste produced by reactors. The spent fuel rods are highly radioactive and will pose a threat to human life and the environment for thousands of years to come. It is abundantly clear that the production of nuclear energy is extremely irresponsible: the fact that such energy is cheap and clean stands in no relation to the risks and dangers

Linking adverbials and phrases

1. First of all/Firstly vs. At first...

(The former adverbs are used to introduce a series of reasons, opinions, etc., while the latter is used to talk about a situation at the beginning of a period of time, especially when you are comparing it with a later period of time)

- a. There are various lessons we can learn from this disaster., there need to be better and more frequent safety checks.
- b. "This has been a difficult time for all airlines, including British Airways. let me express my sincerest apologies to those customers who have had to wait for many hours..."
- c. it appeared as if the Channel Tunnel was going to be a huge flop, but gradually more and more people started to travel by Eurostar.
- d. I was quite nervous about studying in Liverpool, as the city has a reputation for being crime-ridden. However, it turned out to be a vibrant and confident city, and I did not regret my decision to study there.
- e. I struggled to make any English friends. That all changed when I met Ronnie - a gregarious fellow, who seemed to know every young person in the city.

2. Surely vs. Certainly vs. To be sure

(You use 'Surely' to show that you are certain about what you are saying and want others to agree with you; as such, it often implies a question like "isn't it?", "aren't they?", "don't you think?", etc.. By contrast, 'Certainly' usually means 'without a doubt' or 'definitely', and thus refers to something which is generally accepted as fact. Often it is used to express a concession before questioning or criticising sth. 'To be sure' means 'Admittedly')

- a. I find it hard to believe that Sarah Palin won a single vote. people realise that she knows nothing about world politics.
- b., the government has taken steps to boost domestic demand. But rising unemployment and weak job security have dampened private consumption.
- c. Klaus Pumpnickel's film is original, but not very enjoyable to watch.
- d. I am not sure what I think about the government's new education policies, they are daring, but it is hard to say whether they will work in practice.
- e. the inspectors would have found these weapons of mass destruction if they really existed.
- f. Pilot: We're going to have to land the plane in the Hudson river.
Controller: you can't be serious.
- g. Geoff: the best way to reduce the crime rate is to bring back hanging.

Susan: That is _____ the view expressed by tabloid newspapers, but I am not convinced – you need only look at the USA to see that capital punishment is not an effective deterrent. Besides, having a legal system that does not resort to the death penalty is the mark of a civilized society.

h. I don't know about you, but this is _____ the best curry I have ever tasted.

3. Besides vs. Moreover/Furthermore

(the former, when used as a linking adverb, means "And anyway..." or "And even if this was not the case", and can be used to introduce another reason you have for rejecting a particular argument, while the latter adverbs just mean "Weiterhin")

a. The internet enables you to pursue your interests with greater intensity. _____, it allows you to find communities of like-minded people, and in this way even improves your chances of finding a suitable romantic partner.

b. I have not read the new Harry Potter novel, as it does not look particularly original. _____, it is probably time I read something more serious.

c. To resort to military intervention at this stage would be extremely risky. _____, the UN has not tried imposing economic sanctions on Iran yet and these might prove more effective.

d. Connectivity in coastal areas is a major problem, with many accessible only via minor roads. _____, the problem is exacerbated where there are also high levels of traffic, as is found in a number of areas such as Thanet, Torbay and Great Yarmouth.

e. Connectivity is not really a problem, as most of us own helicopters. _____, most of us are happy to be cut off from the rest of the country.

4. By contrast vs. On the contrary

(the former would translate as "im Gegensatz dazu" or "dagegen", while the later means "im Gegenteil")

a. Ireland's education system is world class. It is ranked 4th in the world. _____, Britain is ranked 33rd and our poor education performance is repeatedly identified by organisations such as the OECD as our greatest weakness.

b. These adverts seem to be saying "every day, in every way, we're having more fun". The trouble is that we're not: _____, we're more miserable than ever.

c. Children often talk to themselves, and parents and teachers should not regard this as weird or worrying. _____, they should see it as a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into children's creative processes.

d. Students who have used a computer for several years mostly perform better than average. _____, those who do not have access to computers tend to lag behind their fellow students.

e. Not all computer games have a corrupting effect on young people. _____, certain games help young people to develop their analytical skills.

5. so that..... vs. which means that.....

(the former suggests intention - i.e., that one does sth. deliberately for a particular effect, while the latter refers to a consequence that is divorced from intention)

a. I switched off the torch _____ the batteries would not run out before it got dark.

b. Fertilizer is a world market commodity, _____ supply and demand factors determine its price.

c. He set fire to his sports shorts _____ he would not have to play rugby.

d. I forgot to switch off the torch, _____ the batteries ran out before it got dark.

e. Here at Tropical Pork Lollies we marinade our meat in fruit juice for a minimum of two weeks _____ every sausage tastes as fruity as possible.

Using appropriate linking phrases, link the sections below:

Trains are unreliable in Great Britain	Car drivers are unlikely to change their preferred mode of transport any time soon.
The government should invest more money in training British engineers	We are not so reliant on other countries when it comes to improving our transport system
Gordon Brown is not a slick performer; he does not understand how to use the media and gives the impression of being grumpy and disinterested.	There is more substance in what he says than in the opposition's policies and manifesto.
There is more substance in what Gordon Brown says than in the opposition's policies and manifesto.	The election may be closer than many people have predicted.
The gun law is far more relaxed in the USA than in most European countries	It is hardly surprising that so many homicides are committed there.
Obama imagined that the electorate had given him a mandate to do whatever he wanted.	He unveiled his plans for a grand makeover of the American system.
New Labour has been accused of betraying the Labour Party's roots by transforming it into a middle class party.	The Labour Party had to change to have any hope of being elected