

CONNECTORS AND LINKERS FOR CAE

Weighing things up

1. advantage /disadvantage

*The **great advantage** of digital cameras is that there is no film to process.*

*A **major disadvantage** of these vaccines is that they are very expensive to produce.*

*Despite the initial outlay, the **long-term advantages** of this proposal clearly outweigh the **disadvantages**.*

2. good point

*One of the **good points about** the book's design is that it is easy to use.*

3. the good/great/best thing about (rather informal)

*The **good thing about** cycling to work is that you don't get stuck in traffic jams.*

4. drawback (= a disadvantage in the context of other advantages)

*This method produces by far the most accurate results, **but its major drawback** is that it can be very time-consuming.*

Agreeing/Partly agreeing

1. agree (+ that / + on) agree ON, agree ON, agree ON...."IN" caca!

*Most experts **agree that** dieting needs to be accompanied by regular exercise.*

*Most experts **agree on the need** for dieting to be accompanied by regular exercise.*

2. share sb's view/concerns

*I **share her concerns about** the lack of women in high academic positions.*

*A lot of people **share the view that** tourism will have a negative impact on the island.*

3. there is some truth in the argument that...

***There is some truth in the argument that** there is a link between violence on our TV screens and violence on our streets.*

4. there is (general/widespread) agreement (+that / +on) (agreement is uncountable, so no "a")

***Today there is general agreement that** climate change is a major concern.*

*Today there is **widespread agreement on** the need for action on climate change.*

5. there is a widely held view/belief that... (belief is countable, so “a” is necessary)

*There is a **widely held belief that** body heat is lost mostly through the head.*

6. widely/generally accepted

*It is now **widely accepted that** the universe began with the so-called Big Bang.*

Aim or purpose

- aim (to do)

*This paper **aims to show** the influence of technology on the work of artists.*

- achieve/attain a goal

*It took Mandela over forty years to **achieve his goal** of a democratic South Africa.*

- have intention of +ING

*Rafsanjani claimed that Iran **had no intention of developing** nuclear weapons.*

Causes

- make (without “to”)

*She could always **make me laugh**.*

***What makes young people** commit crime?*

*The government’s economic policies **have made it unpopular** with voters.*

*The invention of the washing machine **made people’s lives** a lot easier.*

- cause (sth + to do): Generalmente se usa para cosas negativas

***The crisis caused** oil prices **to rise** dramatically.*

*High fat diets **can cause** heart disease.*

- lead to

*This research could eventually **lead to a cure** for many serious illnesses.*

*Overfishing has **led to a collapse** in the numbers of tuna and cod in the Atlantic.*

- trigger: Disparar en el sentido de iniciar, provocar.

*The First World War **was triggered** by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo.*

- arise from

*Inter-ethnic unrest in central Asia is just one of the **problems arising from** the breakup of the Soviet Union.*

- be a (major/key) factor in

*Public outcry against the cuts was **a major factor in** the government's decision to rethink their austerity measures.*

*Her lack of good looks was, paradoxically, **a key factor in** her success – millions of people saw her as a kind of anti-celebrity.*

*The study tried to identify the **key factors affecting** economic change.*

- source

*Housework can become a major **source of conflict** between couples.*

*The fact that the two words are so similar can be a **source of confusion**.*

Certainty & Uncertainty

- certain (that / to do)

*It now seems **certain that** life exists elsewhere in the universe.*

*The committee are almost **certain to accept** the proposal.*

- there is no doubt that / there is no denying the fact that

***There is no doubt that** there is a link between smoking and lung cancer.*

*However irritating his arrogance may be, **there is no denying the fact that** he is a brilliant player.*

- not sure / unsure

*I am **not sure whether** this story is true or not.*

*The police are still **unsure about** exactly what happened.*

Comparing & Contrasting

- compared to/with; in comparison to/with

***Compared to** most other European capitals, Vienna has a low crime rate.*

*In the Philippines wages are very low **in comparison with** the US.*

- unlike – a diferencia de...

***Unlike** his brother, he has no interest in music.*

*The drug has almost no side effects, **unlike** other drugs that are used to treat this illness.*

- in contrast to / by contrast (with comma)

***In contrast to** the south, the north of the country has a low unemployment rate.*

*The north of the country has a low unemployment rate. **By contrast**, in the south many people are desperate to find work.*

- make/draw a distinction between

*It is important **to make a distinction between** allowing a patient to die comfortably, and actively helping them to do so.*

Subjects and topics

- as for (to introduce a subject which is connected with what you were saying before)

*You can ask the others, but **as for me**, I'll be busy in the office.*

***As for racism**, much progress has been made, but there is still much to do.*

- focus on

*In this report I will **focus on** the three main search engines currently in use.*

Concluding

- the main conclusion to be drawn... is that...

***The main conclusion to be drawn from this discussion is that** the best way to help slow readers is to help them recognise individual words.*

- in this... I have tried/attempted to...

***In this report, I have attempted to** demonstrate why improved training is the best solution to the current problem.*

Disagreeing

- disagree /not agree

Scientists **disagree** about what causes the anomalies.

Scientists **do not agree** as to the source of the anomalies.

I **strongly disagree with** his views on immigration.

- take issue with

I feel that I **must take issue with her argument** that television violence leads to higher crime rates.

- controversial

The cultivation of genetically modified crops is **a highly controversial issue**.

Effects

- effect(s) (of sth) (on sth)

She was one of the first scientists to study **the effects of** radiation **on** the human body.

The kind of food we eat has a significant **effect on** our mental ability.

Recent developments in nanotechnology **will have far-reaching effects on** medicine and other fields.

- impact (of sth) (on sth)

His work had an **enormous impact on** the study of genetics.

Population growth will have a **profound impact on** world demand for food.

- influence (of sth) (on sth)

Marshall McLuhan examined the **influence of** the media **on** modern society.

Marshall McLuhan showed how the media have **an enormous influence on** modern society.

- repercussions

The recent scandal could have **serious repercussions for** her political career.

- implications

The results of the study will have **important implications for** educational policy.

Emphasising

- it should be noted that

***It should be noted that** the research in this area is still at an early stage.*

- it is worth bearing in mind that / Please bear in mind that

***It is worth bearing in mind that** 90% of the scientists researching herbicides in the USA are employed by chemical companies.*

- vital/essential

*These insects play **a vital part in** the food chain.*

***It is essential that** the work is carried out as soon as possible.*

- especially/particularly

*Unemployment figures have been rising, **especially** in the north.*

*Alcohol consumption has increased, **particularly** among young women.*

- above all

*Cycling is pollution-free, cheap, **and above all**, healthy.*

- draw attention to

*The study was one of the first **to draw attention to** the problems faced by the disabled.*

Explaining

- This means that / which means that (with reference to what has just been said)

*Computer technology is constantly being improved. **This means that** anything you buy will be out of date within a few months. (Two sentences separated by a full stop)*

*There is a shortage of doctors, **which means that** patients often have to wait a long time for treatment. (One sentence, divided in half by a comma)*

- in other words

*We want to know if she has the right skills, experience and attitude – **in other words**, can she do the job?*

- to put it simply

*For all the skill of the artists of ancient Egypt, they were bound by rigid conventions in which foreshortening and perspective played no role. **To put it simply**, they did not depict the world as it is seen.*

- the purpose of... is to outline

***The purpose** of the first chapter **is to outline** the basic principles which form the foundation of the English legal system.*

A selection of important linking words & expressions

- apart from

***Apart from** one or two minor errors, this is an excellent essay.*

*It rained on the last day, **but apart from that**, we had wonderful weather.*

- reason (for sth)

*The German economy recovered from the recession more quickly than elsewhere in Europe. **The reason for this** was large-scale investment on the part of China.*

***There are good reasons for** believing that the new material, graphene, will revolutionise the computer industry.*

- due to / owing to (+ noun phrase)

*The number of songbirds has declined. This is partly **due to modern farming methods**.*

***Owing to lack of public interest**, the programme was abandoned.*

- argument(s)

*There are **strong** environmental **arguments** for reducing car use and promoting public transport.*

- whereas / while

*Most urban housing in Spain is in the form of large blocks of flats, **whereas** in Britain the norm is individual houses, usually with at least two floors.*

*Some people visit their doctor once every few weeks, **while** others may not visit theirs in years.*

- otherwise

*The committee needs to act quickly, **otherwise** there could be a serious problem.*

*The local people are glad the tourists are here. **Otherwise**, there would be no jobs.*

- in case

*Doctors have to take out insurance to protect themselves **in case** they are sued.*

*Make sure to take some proof of identity **in case** we get stopped at the border.*

- on (the) one hand / on the other hand (things to be balanced against each other)

***On the one hand**, celebrities owe their wealth and success to being in the public eye.*

***On the other**, everyone is entitled to their own private life.*

- as a result

*Strong winds had brought down trees and power lines, and **as a result** none of the local trains were running.*

*Some people suffer from stress at work and become ill **as a result**.*

- as follows

*The aims of this report are **as follows**: to set out the ideas behind the proposed new development, to summarise local opinion about it, and to suggest ways of reducing its impact on the environment.*