

# THE FLATMATES

Language point:  
Linking Words



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH



# BBC Learning English – The Flatmates

## The Flatmates – Linking words

You can see this language point online at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode64/languagepoint.shtml>

### Linking words and phrases

**Linking words and phrases** are used to show relationships between ideas. They can be used to join 2 or more sentences or clauses (a clause is a group of words which contains a subject and a verb).

Linking words/phrases can be used to **add ideas together**, **contrast them**, or **show the reason** for something.

### Adding ideas and information

#### Also

This is used to give more information or ideas. It can be put at the beginning of a sentence, or between the subject and the verb.

We are unable to repair this watch. **Also**, this is the fourth time this has happened. I want to be an astronaut. **I also want** to be a biologist. What should I do?

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#### Besides/Besides this/besides that

This is usually placed at the beginning of a sentence. It is used to make an additional point.

Traffic congestion is a problem in my city. **Besides this**, the trains are very expensive. I can't afford to go to the concert. **Besides**, I don't really like classical music.

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#### As well as this/that

This is very similar to **besides/besides this/besides that**. It is usually placed at the beginning of a sentence. It is used to make an additional point.

My boss is the only other person who sells the watches. **As well as that**, he might blame me.

We went to the park today. **As well as that**, we did some shopping.

For information about '**and, as well as, in addition to**' go to the Flatmates episode 25

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode25/languagepoint.shtml>

### Showing reasons

**As** and **since** are used to introduce the reason for something. They are similar in meaning and use to **'because'**.

#### **As**

**As** the watch you have returned is not genuine, we are unable to repair it.  
We are unable to repair the watch you have returned **as** it is not genuine.

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#### **Since**

**Since** the watch you have returned is not genuine, we are unable to repair it.  
We are unable to repair the watch you have returned **since** it is not genuine.

### Showing results

**Consequently** and **as a consequence** are linking words which link **reasons** with **results**. They are common in formal writing.

#### **Consequently**

This is the fourth time that this has happened and, **consequently**, we can't accept further watches from you.

This is the fourth time that this has happened. **Consequently**, we can't accept further watches from you.

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#### **As a consequence**

This is the fourth time that this has happened and, **as a consequence**, we can't accept further watches from you.

This is the fourth time that this has happened. **As a consequence**, we can't accept further watches from you.

For information about **'so'**, **'because'** and **'because of'** go to the Flatmates episode 25 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode25/languagepoint.shtml>

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### Contrasting ideas

#### **Despite** and **in spite of**

These are followed by **nouns** or **gerunds** (verb + 'ing'). They are **not** followed by clauses (subject + verb).

**Despite losing** the match, the team were happy with their efforts.

**In spite of the lost match**, the team were happy.

(meaning: they lost the match but they were happy anyway)

If you want to use a **clause** with **despite** and **in spite of**, you need to add '**the fact that**'.

**Despite the fact that they lost** the match, the team were still happy.

**In spite of the fact that they lost**, the team were still happy.

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**While** and **whereas** are used to contrast **two** opposite ideas in **one sentence**. These words can be placed at the beginning of the sentence, or in the middle.

**While** London is exciting, it is much too busy.

Life in the city is fast, **whereas** life in the countryside is slow.

For information about '**but**', '**however**', and '**although**' go to the Flatmates episode 25  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode25/languagepoint.shtml>

#### **Vocabulary:**

##### **genuine (adj)**

real and authentic. Not a fake or forgery

##### **further watches**

more watches

##### **curious (adj)**

you want to know more about something

Would you like to try an online quiz about this language point? Go to:

<http://bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode64/quiz.shtml>

Or you can download the quiz from:

<http://bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode64/quiz.pdf>

More on this language point:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/learnit/#g>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode25/languagepoint.shtml>

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