

1B GRAMMAR discourse markers (1): linkers

a Complete the texts with the discourse markers from the list.

although as as a result because of but consequently despite
however in case ~~so~~ so as not to so as to so that (x2) though



1 I would say that the most challenging period in my career so far was my first junior management position in the company where I still work today. I had always wanted to be an Accounts manager, ¹ so I was thrilled when I got the job, but little did I know what was waiting for me on my first day. The office environment wasn't exactly organized, and to make matters worse, my boss was completely unsupportive of me. For some reason, he just refused to take any responsibility for dealing with the clients, and I was ² _____ forced to deal with all the problems by myself, which wasn't easy. I used to stay late at the office almost every night ³ _____ miss any of the clients' deadlines. It seems ridiculous now, but I was so stressed that I used to check my emails every five minutes, even at weekends, ⁴ _____ there was an urgent message asking me to figure something out. It was worth it in the end, ⁵ _____, because eventually my boss was fired and I was promoted in his place!



The toughest time I ever had was definitely my first term here at university.

⁶ _____ I really love student life now, it wasn't so easy in the beginning. My bad luck started on the very first day. My parents had just dropped me off with all my stuff when some of the guys whose rooms were on the same corridor as mine suggested going to play basketball in the park nearby. I don't know exactly how it happened, ⁷ _____ somehow, during the game, I tripped and fell really hard on my right arm and broke it. Apart from not being able to play any sports for weeks, it was especially annoying because my injury meant I wasn't able to write properly. ⁸ _____, I got really behind with my essays and I had to take an extra class later in the year ⁹ _____ I could catch up. On top of that, it wasn't as easy as I had expected to find friends, and I was pretty homesick for a while. ¹⁰ _____, things got better eventually. Once my arm was better, I managed to get into the university basketball team and made loads of new friends.

Most people can't wait until the day they retire, but I can tell you it's not as simple as you might think. ¹¹ _____ all the free time, retirement isn't just a question of enjoying yourself and feeling happy that you never have to work again. My husband Frank had terrible trouble adjusting to the new lifestyle when he retired after 40 rewarding years as a lawyer. ¹² _____ he had always been committed to his career, it wasn't easy just to give it up overnight. We decided to move to the countryside ¹³ _____ be nearer to our daughter and her family, but when we arrived, we found that they were all so busy with their own lives that they didn't have much time for us.

Of course, we did babysit for her sometimes ¹⁴ _____ she could go out in the evenings, but somehow it wasn't the life we had imagined. Just when we were feeling really down, a friend of ours invited us along to a ballroom dancing class in the village. Frank wasn't keen at first, as dancing isn't really his thing, but once we got there, we had a wonderful time. Now we go three times a week and it's changed our lives. We keep fit and we've met so many fantastic people. And it's all ¹⁵ _____ the dance class. I don't know what we would have done without it!



activation

b Write your own paragraph about a challenging experience you have faced. You could write about your work, studies, or family. Explain what the challenge was, and how you survived it. If you can't think of anything from your life, write about a friend or relative.

In your paragraph, make sure you use at least five of the discourse markers from the list.

Grammar activity answers

1A have: auxiliary or main verb?

- a 2 I've been reading 3 ✓ 4 Don't you have
5 already have 6 I'll be having 7 didn't have to
8 have the jacket dry-cleaned 9 ✓ 10 I had
- b 2 haven't 3 got/had 4 had 5 been 6 taking
7 hasn't 8 have/take 9 having 10 've
11 to 12 have

1B discourse markers (1): linkers

- a 2 consequently 3 so as not to 4 in case 5 though
6 Although 7 but 8 As a result 9 so that
10 However 11 Despite 12 As 13 so as to
14 so that 15 because of

2A pronouns

- a 2 It's 3 themselves 4 it's 5 you 6 you
7 there's 8 their 9 themselves 10 one another
11 they 12 there's
- b 2 there 3 They 4 one 5 It 6 you 7 they
8 yourself 9 they 10 you 11 there 12 it

2B the past: habitual events and specific incidents

- 2 didn't have 3 was playing 4 interrupted
5 had / 'd wanted 6 had been allowed
7 would / used to get 8 used to / would feed
9 didn't want 10 used to be / was 11 was taking
12 bit 13 dropped 14 wasn't / didn't use to be
15 used to cry / cried 16 had gone
17 was explaining 18 had happened 19 spoke
20 I'd ever experienced / 'd experienced

3A get

- a 2 X get to the point 3 X got broken 4 X get a bus
5 ✓ 6 X get paid 7 ✓ 8 X get Elena to look
9 X got the kitchen painted 10 X got to the closest
petrol station
- b 2 Paying a lot to get your hair cut is a waste of money.
Paying a lot of money to get your hair cut is a waste.
3 The best way to get rich is to work hard.
4 Getting hurt is usually a learning experience.
5 People get wiser as they get older.
6 Cheating is fine if you don't get caught.
7 Giving presents is better than getting them.
8 School doesn't help you to get anywhere in life.

3B discourse markers (2): adverbs and adverbial expressions

- 2 Obviously 3 that is to say 4 Besides
5 in other words 6 By the way 7 Anyway
8 Basically 9 On the one hand 10 To sum up

4A speculation and deduction

- 1 might / may have left 3 can't be 4 might /
5 might / may be trying 6 shouldn't be
7 have fallen out 8 must have (done)

- b 2 the disease is likely to 3 you probably won't be able
4 is unlikely to be 5 we are bound to
6 it's very unlikely that 7 she's bound to be
8 she'll / will definitely

4B adding emphasis (1): inversion

- a 2 Not 3 when 4 Never 5 Only 6 Scarcely /
Hardly 7 but 8 Hardly / Scarcely 9 until
10 Rarely 11 again 12 No

5A distancing

- a 2 It seems (that) men are more at risk...
3 It appears (that) she has changed her mind...
4 It seems (that) you are unable to deal...
5 It seems (that) the weather is about to improve.
6 It appears (that) the robbers were wearing...
- b 2 A spokesman is expected to make an
announcement...
3 More than half of the population are believed to
suffer from headaches.
4 St Petersburg is said to be one of the...
5 At least 70 people are thought to have been injured...
6 The economy is expected to grow...

5B unreal uses of past tenses

- 2c 3b 4c 5a 6c 7a 8b 9b
10c 11a 12b 13b 14a 15c

6A verb + object + infinitive or gerund

- a 2 to take 3 to be offended 4 ✓ 5 being able
6 you to feel 7 ✓ 8 for our children to go 9 ✓
- b 2 to retake 3 do 4 to get 5 to attend
6 stopping 7 using 8 to leave 9 not to arrive
10 taking

6B conditional sentences

- a 2 could 3 lacks 4 won't be 5 did
6 wouldn't be losing 7 had built
8 might not have lost 9 would still be working
10 hadn't messed up 11 were
12 would have noticed 13 aren't 14 'll / will call
- b 2 You can borrow my laptop on condition (that) you
look after it.
3 I'm going to go to the party whether I'm invited
or not.
4 Supposing you hadn't found your passport, what
would you have done?
5 The exam will be fine providing (that) you do
enough revision.
6 I'm in favour of contact sports as long as nobody
gets seriously injured.
7 I would never wear fur, even if the weather was
very cold / it was very cold.
8 You can go out tonight provided (that) you're back
by midnight.