

Link Up! This is a great activity that I discovered during a training day many years ago and that I still love to use. It works really well for practising and developing the use of linking words and you can make it as easy or as difficult as you like depending on your group.

The activity works best in small groups of 3 or 4 as the learners will have to use their imagination a little so the more ideas the better!

How does it work?

1. For best results, it is ideal to prepare in advance sentences that you have been recently working on with your learners (try not to introduce anything new as the focus should be on the linking words). For example, if you have been working on the theme of holidays with a group who can use three different tenses, you may choose 4 sentences such as:

- D'habitude, je vais en vacances en France
- L'année dernière, j'ai logé dans un hôtel
- Cet été, je ne vais pas partir en vacances
- Je veux aller en Australie

You can display the sentences on the whiteboard and ask the learners to write down the sentences. I think it works best if they can write one sentence per sheet of paper so there is enough space for them to develop their work – and also so that other groups can read their work too.

2. Give the learners a selection of conjunctions like the ones below:

parce que	puis	et
mais	quand	tandis que
où	puisque	ou
cependant	par conséquent	donc

3. You could do a quick activity to check comprehension – perhaps Circle the Word Not Heard working line by line, or an ordering activity so the learners would number the words as they hear you say them in English.

Once you are confident that the learners understand the words, you can do one or more of the following 4 different activities:

1. Simply ask the learners to complete each of the 4 sentences using at least 2 or 3 link words in total. They cannot use any link word more than twice!
2. Ask the learners to link together the four sentences that you have given them – but they have to add at least 2 or 3 new pieces of information too.
3. You can tell the learners which link words they have to use with each sentence. The learners can share the sentences they have created with other groups and then the learners can decide which group came up with the most creative sentences.
4. You could even create a short passage using the sentences and remove the link words. The learners have to try to decide which link words best fit in the gaps. For example:

D'habitude, je vais en vacances en France **ou** en Espagne en été **parce que** ma mère adore la chaleur **tandis que** mon père préfère rester en Angleterre **où** il fait moins chaud. L'année dernière, j'ai logé dans un hôtel **mais** il n'y avait pas de piscine, et **par conséquent**, on est allés à la plage tous les jours. Cet été, je ne vais pas partir en vacances **puisque** j'ai un petit boulot. **Cependant**, je vais partir en week-end avec mes amis **et** je veux aller en Australie l'année prochaine **donc** je dois faire des économies.

There may be various answers for this! You could ask the learners what they prefer.

If you are working with an Advanced group, this activity works really well and you can introduce conjunctions that take the subjunctive and mix these with those that don't. This really enhances the challenge!

We hope you enjoy trying the activity with your learners.