

Even though the teacher checks on us from time to time, I can just mute my mic. Moreover, I can just say there are some technical difficulties.

## Linking words II



### Grammar in Context

Theme: The internet

Words by Theme



Read the following encyclopaedia entry and answer the questions.

#### Internet Memes<sup>1</sup>

Internet memes are digital images with short text. They comment humorously on social phenomena. Moreover, they are widespread on social networking sites and forums because people find them funny yet insightful<sup>2</sup>.

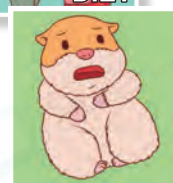
#### Origin

The word *meme* first appeared in the book *The Selfish Gene* by evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, referring to a cultural idea that is transmitted<sup>3</sup> from one person to another, like genes in biology.

Furthermore, according to Dawkins, a meme is spread as though it was a virus. Although he was not talking about those witty images, he later approved that what the word means on the internet is indeed an example of a meme.

#### Usage

Despite the instant<sup>4</sup> public recognition gained by memes, there is no strict definition of their content. They can be shocking or educational. In addition, they can be about relationships, lifestyles, animals or any others. In spite of the variety, one thing is for sure: the image part of a popular meme would be used in different contexts to produce new memes as if it was a spice added to different dishes.



1. Look at the blue words. They are linking words. What are their functions? Write them in the table.

(i) To give additional information	Moreover		
(ii) To describe how a situation seems			
(iii) To link contrasting ideas			

2. Determine if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- (i) A meme is usually funny. Besides, it is often relatable to people from all walks of life.
- (ii) Though the word *meme* first came from netizens, it was later used by a biologist.
- (iii) A meme can be used as a seasoning when cooking.

## PART 1 Giving additional information

We use *also*, *besides*, *moreover*, *furthermore* and *in addition* to give additional information. We use them at the beginning of a sentence. We add a comma after them.

Situation	Linking word	Additional information
5G technology offers faster networks.	<i>Also,</i>	<i>it enables more stable connections.</i>
These clothes are out of fashion.	<i>Besides,</i>	<i>they are dirty and worn.</i>
This film was nominated for Best Sound.	<i>Moreover,</i>	<i>it was nominated for Best Picture.</i>
Yoga improves your flexibility.	<i>Furthermore,</i>	<i>it helps reduce stress.</i>
We're running out of toilet paper.	<i>In addition,</i>	<i>we need some toothpaste.</i>

We can put *also* in the middle of a sentence as well.

- 5G technology offers faster networks. It *also* enables more stable connections.
- 5G technology offers faster networks. It is *also* more stable in connections.
- 5G technology offers faster networks. It can *also* enable more stable connections.

### Error Diagnosis

Note the differences between *besides* and *beside*.

I'm having a headache. Beside, I'm having a sore throat. ✗

adverb (= *also*)

I'm having a headache. Besides, I'm having a sore throat. ✓

preposition (= *apart from*)

I'm having a sore throat besides a headache. ✓

preposition (= *at the side of*)

I placed a box of tissues beside my bed. ✓



### Exercise 1.1

Rewrite the sentences using the given linking words.

- I have forgotten my backpack on the train. I have lost my wallet too. (... *Furthermore* ...)  
I have forgotten my backpack on the train. Furthermore, I have lost my wallet.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Nicole didn't respond to any of my emails. She hasn't been answering my calls either. (... *In addition* ...)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The font size on the screen is not big enough. The screen is not bright enough either. (... *Besides* ...)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Jackson wears short-sleeved T-shirts even in winter. He always has iced drinks too. (... *Moreover* ...)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Fabio is able to speak five languages. He can speak all of the five languages like a native. (... *Also* ...)  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. I love listening to hip hop. I love listening to jazz as well. (... *besides* ...)

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Elaine is hard-working. She takes the initiative to seek solutions to problems too. (... *Furthermore* ...)

\_\_\_\_\_

8. You need to do more exercise. You should sleep early as well. (... *also* ...)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Level Up** Exercise 1.2

Matt is reading an article about comfort food. Complete the article by writing the letters (A–G) in the spaces provided.

**Food that Everyone Wants to Devour**

**Comfort Food** is food that we are very familiar with and therefore can comfort us like an old friend. (1)   C   as it was probably our favourite food when we were small. With such a familiar feeling, comfort food can relieve our stress and anxiety. (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

To many Hongkongers, egg tarts and fish balls are popular comfort food. (3) \_\_\_\_\_, like macaroni soup with luncheon meat and barbecued pork over rice. (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

In the west, examples of comfort food include fried chicken and cheeseburgers. Healthy food such as salad have to give way. Comfort food is often greasy. (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Remarkably, it activates the brain’s reward system—the part that encourages pleasure-seeking. (6) \_\_\_\_\_. However, comfort food can be addictive. Remember to refrain from eating too much. (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

In summary, comfort food should be enjoyed in moderation.



- A. Furthermore, it tends to be less healthy because of the extra calories and carbohydrates
- B. Also, watch out for any signs that it has developed into unhealthy emotional eating
- C. In addition, it reminds us of our childhood
- D. Besides street food, we have many other tummy-warming dishes in cha chaan tengs
- E. Moreover, it provides an escape from adult life
- F. Besides, it stimulates the brain to release hormones that make us feel good
- G. They are also zesty and fulfilling options to sate our appetite

**More to take away** zesty (adj.) = full of flavour  
sate (v.) = to satisfy a desire

## PART 2 Describing how a situation seems

We use *as if* or *as though* to describe how a situation seems. We compare the situation to a possible or an impossible situation. *As if* and *as though* often follow verbs like *look* and *feel*. They are followed by a clause.

Situation	Linking word	Possible / Impossible situation (clause)
You talk	<i>as if / as though</i>	<i>we're never seeing each other again.</i> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">possible</span>
I felt		<i>I hadn't slept for days.</i>
The girl is spinning		<i>she was a spinning top.</i> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">impossible</span>
The streets were empty		<i>it was the end of the world.</i>

### Let's compare

The tense used after *as if* or *as though* suggests whether the situation is possible or impossible.

#### To talk about possible situations

- Raymond **looks** *as if / as though* **he is** sick.  
(Perhaps he is really sick.)

tenses of the same time frame

- He **talked** *as if / as though* **he had known** her for years. He **knew** every detail about her.  
(Perhaps he really had known her for years.)

#### To talk about impossible situations

- Raymond looks *as if / as though* **he was** sick.  
(He is not sick.)

past tense anyway

- He talked *as if / as though* **he had known** her for years, but he **knew** very little about her.  
(He had not known her for years.)



### Exercise 2.1

Complete the sentences with the given phrases. Write the letters (A–L) in the brackets.

- Aaron is so focused on the cars ahead ( D )
- Tina keeps flipping through the book ( )
- The weightlifter looked ( )
- The kittens cuddle up to one another ( )
- It rained so heavily today ( )
- The birds are chirping ( )
- Mabel's family protects her ( )
- Chloe lifted her arm ( )
- The puppets move ( )
- Lisa screeched ( )
- Leo told Meg to close her eyes ( )
- Arrogant people talk ( )



- as though she had seen a ghost.
- as if they knew everything.
- as if she can't take care of herself.
- as though he was in the real Grand Prix.
- as though they were in an orchestra.
- as if the sky had been saving it up for weeks.
- as if she can read very fast.
- as though he was going to give her a surprise.
- as though she was posing for cover shots.
- as if they were alive.
- as though they get along well.
- as if he was exhausted.





## Exercise 2.2

Daisy is writing a blog entry. Rewrite the underlined parts using the given linking words.

### Feeling as if I'm a big brother

Recently, I've been volunteering at a primary school. My duty is to introduce several leisure activities to the students. In our first session, (1) the students were so shy; it seemed that they'd never seen a secondary school student before.

In front of these young faces, (2) I felt like I had aged by years.

During the sessions of making origami cranes, they always give me all the cranes. (3) I feel that I have their best wishes. Every time, we string the cranes together. (4) Their wings spread in a way that seems that they are flying. We also have African drum jamming. Whenever I play a fast rhythm, (5) some students giggle in a way that seems that they find the rhythm amusing. (6) I like to encourage them to drum along by imagining they are master drummers. (7) They are always excited with the drums. I guess they've never seen an African drum before.



1. the students were so shy as if they'd never seen a secondary school student before \_\_\_\_\_ (as if)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (as though)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (as though)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (as though)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (as if)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (as if)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (as though)

### PART 3 Showing contrasts

We use the following linking words to join two contrasting ideas. We can put them in the middle of a sentence.

<i>I soldiered on</i>	<i>in spite of / despite</i>	<u>the difficulties.</u>	noun phrase / gerund
<i>He faked a smile</i>		<u>feeling sad.</u>	
<i>I had dessert</i>	<i>despite the fact that / in spite of the fact that / although / though / even though</i>	<u>I was already full.</u>	clause
<i>He insisted on helping out</i>		<u>we had enough volunteers.</u>	

We can also put them at the beginning of a sentence. We add a comma before the main clause.

<i>In spite of / Despite</i>	<i>arriving late,</i>	<i>we could enter the theatre.</i>
<i>Despite the fact that / In spite of the fact that / Although / Though / Even though</i>	<i>they had never met before,</i>	<i>they felt close to each other.</i>



## Error Diagnosis

If the two contrasting ideas share the same subject, we remove the repeating subject after *despite* or *in spite of*.

*Despite / In spite of* Kate knew the details, Kate did not tell anyone. ✗

*Despite / In spite of* knowing the details, Kate did not tell anyone. ✓

gerund

We add *the fact that* to *despite* and *in spite of* to link up clauses.

I had dessert *despite / in spite of* I was already full. ✗

I had dessert *despite / in spite of* the fact that I was already full. ✓

I had dessert *despite / in spite of* the feeling of fullness / feeling full already. ✓

clause

noun phrase /  
gerund

### Exercise 3.1

Underline the correct answers for the following sentences.

- ( Although / In spite of ) having a big family, Daniel feels lonely all the time.
- My phone is running out of juice ( despite / even though ) it was fully charged last night.
- ( Although / In spite of ) Fiona can cook well, she seldom cooks as she hates doing the dishes.
- Many young people cannot afford a flat ( even though / in spite of ) saving their entire salaries.
- The rumours caused public panic ( though / despite ) they had been proved unfounded.
- ( Although / Despite ) some regrets in the past, the old man said he had lived life to the full.
- ( Though / In spite of ) Ben hits the gym very often, he still does not have a six-pack.
- The pipes were still leaking ( in spite of / despite the fact that ) they had been repaired.



### Exercise 3.2

Jacob is reading a book review. Rewrite the underlined parts using the given linking words.

*How to Manage Time Well* is a book written by Jason Lee, a popular TV host. (1) Despite having only 50 pages, it presents many interesting facts about time management. In each chapter, Lee shows how he succeeded in juggling duties in different situations (2) even though time was limited. He emphasises, '(3) Even though we all know what we have to do, we often procrastinate.' I couldn't agree more. (4) Although I try hard to stick to my duty list, temptations keep distracting me. The author suggests that readers motivate themselves by breaking the long lists into smaller ones (5) though they want to tick off all the items in one go. Lee's sharing is highly entertaining. He mocks himself, saying that he once browsed web pages about time management all day (6) in spite of having to study for the upcoming exams. The book is different from other books of the kind (7) despite being labelled as a self-help book. (8) In spite of the fact that self-help books are not life-changing, this book is worth reading.

1. <u>Although</u> the book has only 50 pages _____ (Although)	5. _____ _____ (despite)
2. _____ _____ (despite)	6. _____ _____ (in spite of the fact that)
3. _____ _____ (In spite of)	7. _____ _____ (even though)
4. _____ _____ (Despite the fact that)	8. _____ _____ (Though)

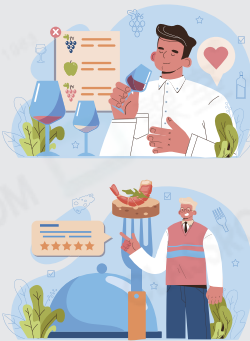
## Grammar Wrap-up

Adam is reading the chat history with his grandpa. Complete the chat by underlining the correct linking words.



Grandpa

Last seen Fri at 19:25



Grandpa, please check out the hyperlink I've sent you. This French restaurant has many positive reviews **(1)** as if / despite / moreover being far away from the downtown. It has been thronged with people **(2)** in spite of / as if / even though it has won the approval of all the famous food critics in town. **(3)** Moreover / As though / Although it'd be hard to book a table there, it seems a decent place to celebrate your birthday.

Where are the reviews? All I see are food pictures **(4)** in spite of / as though / even though I've looked everywhere. I feel lost **(5)** also / as though / though we're not on the same page. The text is **(6)** also / besides / although too small to read **(7)** in spite / as if / in spite of the fact that I'm already wearing my reading glasses.

Today



Grandpa! Abibas is having an online flash sale again **(8)** despite of / in spite / despite the holiday sale last month! Four pairs of sneakers can be bought for just \$800—the price is low **(9)** despite / as if / though they were counterfeits! Can I borrow your credit card? I promise I'll pay you back.

Adam, online shopping is quite risky. The quality can't be assured, can it? **(10)** Furthermore / Although / As though, the shipping can take long ...

## Grammar in Pre-DSE Text Type

Theme: The internet

Jenna is editing an essay about the effect of the internet on people. Complete the essay using the best linking words and the given phrases. Circle the linking words and write the letters (A–L) in the spaces provided.

Words by Theme



### The Internet is Holding Back Our Brains



For people who work with information, like writers and multimedia<sup>1</sup> artists, the internet is of great help. Before the internet, libraries were the standard place to go to if people wished to know more about a topic. (1) E. Now, with search engines<sup>2</sup>, information can be accessed<sup>3</sup> instantly (2) \_\_\_\_\_. (3) \_\_\_\_\_, research revealed that the internet is making us stupider. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ because the coverage<sup>4</sup> of the information online is extensive but not in-depth. (5) \_\_\_\_\_, we can easily be overwhelmed, becoming overloaded with information. (6) \_\_\_\_\_. We feel (7) \_\_\_\_\_ when surfing the internet as there is always more to read. (8) \_\_\_\_\_, we do not retain as much of it as we do when reading printed text. We are drowned in a sea of information. (9) \_\_\_\_\_. We lose the threads easily and have difficulty judging the credibility<sup>5</sup> of information (10) \_\_\_\_\_.

The internet also changes how we think. The posts and articles that appear (11) \_\_\_\_\_ are actually carefully selected based on our viewing habits. We can hardly learn anything new (12) \_\_\_\_\_ ...

- A. Moreover / Although , skimming rewires our brains again and again
- B. though / as though everything was in our hands
- C. in spite of / despite the fact that we browse<sup>6</sup> a lot
- D. as if / though they are random<sup>7</sup>
- E. In addition / As though , days had to be spent there for any in-depth research
- F. Besides / As if , we have had a shorter attention span
- G. as if / also our precious time is being wasted
- H. Despite of / In spite of this convenience
- I. Beside / Furthermore , it proved that we have become dumber
- J. as though / although we had some kind of brain dysfunction
- K. Although / Despite information has become more widely available
- L. Despite / In spite of the fact that getting access to a large amount of information



More to take away

thread (n.) = an idea that connects the different parts of something

With the aid of linking words, our writing can be more coherent and well-organised. Linking words can help us express our points of view more effectively.

- Grace has been nominated as the head prefect. **In addition**, she has been awarded a scholarship. (to give additional information)
- Hilary moaned **as if** she was in pain. (to describe how a situation seems)
- **Despite** being colour-blind, Iris is an accomplished photographer. (to show a contrast)

## Version 1

Clarice is reading a web page about digital citizenship. Read the web page and pay attention to the underlined sentences.



**Good digital citizens** use digital devices and online platforms in appropriate and responsible ways. **(1)** They interact with people online in a way that seems that they are interacting with people in reality. **(2)** Many people engage in online activities every day but are not aware that they are not good digital citizens. **(3)** Some of them behave badly, supposing that they can remain completely anonymous in the virtual world. Below are several aspects that every digital citizen should take note of.

### Digital Safety

Cyberbullying, cyberstalking and online harassment are some common risks. Learn how to identify and deal with them. **(4)** Build a supportive online community by showing kindness too.

### Digital Security

**(5)** Cyber threats are invisible, but hacking, scams and malware do exist. It is better to adopt security measures like safe passwords and firewalls.

### Digital Emotional Intelligence

Be genuine to people online just as to people in real life. **(6)** Don't take online friendships lightly in a way that seems that they are not friendships. Show empathy and respect whenever possible.

### Digital Footprints

**(7)** You may have done something unintentionally online. Still, it could ruin your image in real life. Think before you type.

### Digital Literacy

Information online may be dubious. Only use information from credible sources. **(8)** Report misinformation as well.

### Digital Rights

Online privacy is a human right. Protect your personal information. **(9)** Decide what information to share like it is your personal property.

## Version 2

Rewrite the underlined sentences in Version 1 using the given words.



**Good digital citizens** use digital devices and online platforms in appropriate and responsible ways. **(1)** Moreover, they interact with people online as if they were interacting with people in reality.

(Moreover ... as if ...) **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Despite ...) **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (... as though ...) Below are several aspects that every digital citizen should take note of.

**Digital Safety**  
Cyberbullying, cyberstalking and online harassment are some common risks. Learn how to identify and deal with them.  
**(4)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Furthermore ...)

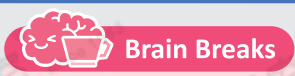
**Digital Security**  
**(5)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(... in spite of the fact that ...)  
It is better to adopt security measures like safe passwords and firewalls.

**Digital Emotional Intelligence**  
Be genuine to people online just as to people in real life. **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (... as if ...)  
Show empathy and respect whenever possible.

**Digital Footprints**  
**(7)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Even though ...)  
Think before you type.

**Digital Literacy**  
Information online may be dubious. Only use information from credible sources. **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Besides ...)

**Digital Rights**  
Online privacy is a human right. Protect your personal information. **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (... as though ...)



**Reporter:** Officer, where did the hackers go when they escaped?  
**Officer:** I have no idea. They just ran somewhere (a pun on ransomware).