

Meanings and Uses of Adversative Linking Adverbs

Linking Adverb	Meaning	Example	Use
<i>nevertheless</i>	X implies Y. X is true, but Y is not true. One is led to expect one thing but finds something different to be true.	Sara has always been a top math student. <i>Nevertheless</i> , she failed calculus this quarter.	If someone is a good math student (X), we expect that person to be good at calculus (Y). For this reason, if (Y) is that <i>she failed history this quarter, nevertheless</i> would not be the appropriate connector.
<i>in contrast</i>	X (a) in contrast Y (b) Two different topics are different in at least one respect.	South Carolina is mild in the winter. <i>In contrast</i> , South Dakota is frigid. ⁹	Here, the two "topics" are states, which differ in their winter climates, mild versus frigid.
<i>on the contrary</i>	Y denies proposition X	City living is supposed to be difficult. <i>On the contrary</i> , I really enjoy the convenience of living in a city.	<i>On the contrary</i> is often confused with <i>in contrast</i> . Notice, though, that <i>in contrast</i> is used to compare two things; <i>on the contrary</i> contradicts the first proposition. Compare: <i>I like skiing. In contrast, my partner likes ice skating.</i> <i>I like skiing. *On the contrary, my partner likes ice skating.</i>
<i>on the other hand</i>	X (a) on the other hand X (b) Only one topic is needed here; the contrast is made with respect to two contrasting qualities	Minnesota is one of our more scenic states. <i>On the other hand</i> , it is bitterly cold in the winter.	Often the qualities being contrasted are of the "good/bad" sort; one feature is positive, the other negative. Here, Minnesota is described as good in one way, bad in another.
<i>in any case</i>	X implies Y OR Not X implies Y Whether or not a condition holds, it implies the truth of the second proposition.	We can take this apartment, or we can take the other one. <i>In any case</i> , we have to take something soon!	<i>In any case</i> expresses succinctly the notion of <i>whether or not X occurs</i> . If we take this apartment (X), it is true that we must take something soon (Y). Or, if we do <i>not</i> take this apartment (not X), it is still true that we must take something soon (Y).

Missing from this chart is the most frequent by far of the adversatives, *however*. This connector may be used almost generically whenever speaker/writers want to draw attention to a difference. For example, of 30 native-English speakers who provided acceptability judgments in Williams's (1996) study, almost all considered *however* an acceptable replacement for *nevertheless*. The differences signaled by *however* are various, as summarized in the following chart:

Meanings Signaled by However

Meaning	Example
Certainty versus uncertainty	We may go to Hawaii, or we may go to California. However, we have to find a way to escape the snow this winter.
Semantic opposition	Jill doesn't do well in school. However, her sister is a straight A student.
Topic change marker	I lost \$2,000 in Las Vegas last week. However, let's talk about something else.

Turning now to two other categories of adverbs, additives and causals, we will consider how the meanings and uses of individual connectors in these categories differ.¹⁰

Meanings and Uses of Additive Linking Adverbs

While the additive meanings of linking adverbs are generally not as complex as some other semantic groups, they do pose challenges to ESL/EFL learners in using them for appropriate contexts. The following chart summarizes some of their differences:

Linking Adverb	Meaning	Example	Use
<i>also</i>	Simple addition; often interchangeable with coordinating conjunction <i>and</i>	To get better organized, spend a little time reflecting on the day. <i>Also</i> , periodically clear your mind with a walk or some other activity.	In spoken and less formal written English, <i>also</i> often connects a piece of advice or other imperative with understood <i>you</i> subjects, especially when the connector begins a sentence.
<i>in addition</i>	Simple addition; often used to connect ideas that are describing situations or concepts rather than arguments	The Transportation Department reported today that 80 percent of all flights were on time this year. <i>In addition</i> , the rate of baggage being mishandled was the lowest during a five-year period.	Typically, the subjects of sentences joined by <i>in addition</i> are not identical.
<i>in addition to (+NP)</i>	Simple addition; in written texts, often used to connect longer spans of discourse	Calcium, found in dairy products, orange juice, and other foods, is needed for bone strength. <i>In addition to</i> good nutrition, weight-bearing exercise is important.	<i>In addition to</i> + a classifier NP (such as <i>nutrition</i>) can summarize and connect ideas in a paragraph or even larger text. <i>In addition</i> alone might not clearly signal what is being connected.

<i>moreover</i>	Simple addition; often introduces a second point used to support a claim	Students applying to law schools need to know whether the schools have the resources to help them choose the right job. <i>Moreover</i> , prospective students need data about schools' career counseling services.	In this example, <i>moreover</i> connects two points in a news article concerned with obligations of law schools to be truthful about what they can offer students.
<i>furthermore</i>	Simple addition; typically introduces a third or fourth point to support an argument	We find that students who work part time performed better in the pre-test of managerial finance. We also find that student ownership of a checking account positively affected performance. <i>Furthermore</i> , we find that higher student participation improved student learning.	Here, <i>furthermore</i> connects the third of three research findings in a journal article.
<i>besides</i>	Emphatic; often used to introduce an additional reason or final argument in support of a point just made	Those items—a gun case and ammo pouch—were found in his home. But the defense said none of it was proof of murder. <i>And besides</i> , they had another suspect in mind.	This adverb is most commonly used in informal written or spoken English. In more formal English, it tends to connect a statement to a stretch of discourse longer than just the previous sentence.
<i>similarly</i>	Comparative; signals a semantic correspondence of ideas, such as similarity, in the ways things occur or operate	In the United States, there has long existed a sense of stewardship toward wild and domestic animals. The creation of national parks and wildlife refuges recognized the right to life of whole ecological communities. <i>Similarly</i> , until the mid-20th century, the small, diverse family farm was a place where animals were generally accorded love and dignity.	In written English, the clauses connected by <i>similarly</i> are often ideas supporting a generalization or claim as in this example, in which the claim is presented in the first sentence.

<i>likewise</i>	Comparative; used much like <i>similarly</i> , though often in less formal contexts; often the subjects of clauses connected are the same or similar	The Fair Credit Billing Act limits credit card holders' liability. If the theft is reported before the card is used, the card holder isn't responsible for unauthorized transactions. <i>Likewise</i> , card holders aren't responsible for fraudulent purchases if only the card number is used.	In this example, note that both subjects refer to <i>credit card holders</i> . This contrasts with the example for <i>similarly</i> , in which the subjects of the two clauses are different.
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Meanings and Uses of Causal Linking Adverbs

The connectors described as *causal* invite the listener/reader to assume a direct inferential relationship between propositions in two clauses:

<i>Linking Adverb</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Use</i>
<i>therefore</i>	Introduces results or conclusions that can be logically deduced or inferred from information to which it is linked	One pound of weight equals 3,500 calories stored in fat. <i>Therefore</i> , for Mr. X to shed 10 pounds, he must consume 35,000 calories less than he expends.	The information in the second sentence follows from the factual information given in the first one. The reader/listener could logically deduce what Mr. X must do to lose the specified weight. In less formal written and spoken English, <i>therefore</i> is often preceded by <i>and</i> .
<i>thus</i>	Used similarly to <i>therefore</i> to introduce a result that can be inferred from previous information. It may also introduce a conclusion from evidence	There is strong statistical evidence that drivers respond rather slowly to changes in fuel prices. <i>Thus</i> , the continued decrease in driving today reflects, in part, a delayed reaction to the earlier rise in the cost of oil.	In this example, a specific result (current reduction in driving) is inferred from the general claim expressed in the first sentence.
<i>hence</i>	Generally equivalent to <i>therefore</i> , introducing a deduction following reasons	This website photo tool is very easy to use. Also, it does not require registration. <i>Hence</i> , the perfect tool to share with your students!	<i>Hence</i> is most frequent in formal written English. In less formal English, such as this example, it is often followed by a phrase (such as an NP) representing a clause with an ellipted subject and verb (e.g., <i>it is</i> in this example).
<i>consequently</i>	Signals a result consistent with information previously given: a true causal relationship rather than a deduction	Most of the paintings the artist sold in his lifetime were to friends, and he got no commissions. <i>Consequently</i> , he was poor.	In this example, the result (the artist's state of poverty) is believed to be caused by the circumstances previously stated.