

# Mastering Sentence Connectors

**Goal:** Learn how to connect your ideas to write professional, university-level sentences.

## 1. Why Use Connectors?

In university, we avoid short, simple sentences. We use **connectors** to show the relationship between two ideas.

- **Simple:** I study History. I like it. (Sounds like a child)
- **Professional:** I study History, **and** I really like it. (Sounds like a student)

## 2. The Three Big Relationships

There are three main reasons to connect sentences:

Relationship	What it does	Examples
<b>Addition (+)</b>	Adds more information.	<b>and, also, in addition</b>
<b>Contrast (≠)</b>	Shows a difference or a problem.	<b>but, however</b>
<b>Cause &amp; Effect (→)</b>	Shows a reason or a result.	<b>so, because, therefore</b>

## 3. The Punctuation Rules (Very Important!)

### Group A: The "Middle" Connectors (and, but, so)

These stay inside one long sentence. Always put a **comma (,)** before them.

*Example:* The library is closed\*\*, **but\*\*** the student lounge is open.

### Group B: The "Sentence Starters" (However, Therefore)

These usually start a new sentence. Always put a **comma (,)** after them.

*Example:* The library is closed. **However**, the student lounge is open.

### Group C: The "Reason" Connector (because)

Usually, we do **not** use a comma with because.

*Example:* I am happy **because** the weekend is starting.

## 4. Practice Exercises

### Activity 1: Identify the Relationship

Read the pairs of ideas below. Label them as **Addition**, **Contrast**, or **Cause/Effect**.

1. The internet is fast. / It is very expensive. (\_\_\_\_\_)
2. I missed the bus. / I was late for the exam. (\_\_\_\_\_)
3. She speaks English. / She speaks Arabic. (\_\_\_\_\_)

4. The professor is strict. / He is very kind. (\_\_\_\_\_)

## Activity 2: The Sentence Surgeon

Combine these two sentences into one professional sentence using the connector in brackets.

Pay attention to **punctuation**.

1. I enjoy my major. It is very difficult. (**but**)  
○
2. He didn't study for the test. He failed. (**therefore**)  
○
3. Social media is fun. It helps us stay connected. (**in addition**)  
○
4. I went to bed early. I was very tired. (**because**)  
○

## 5. Final Challenge

Write one original sentence about your university life using the word "**However**":