

61 Adverbial linking expressions

THE DESTRUCTION OF THERA

Approximately 3,500 years ago, there was a huge volcanic eruption in the Aegean Sea, which devastated the island of Thera (Santorini). **In addition**, it destroyed the successful Minoan civilisation on the island of Crete. **However**, it now seems that the heaviest fall of volcanic ash was to the north-east, over what is now Turkey.

1 General points

Adverbial linking expressions can be single-word adverbs, e.g. *therefore*, *however*, or they can be adverbial phrases, e.g. *as a result*, *in conclusion*.

- They are not conjunctions: they are generally more formal than conjunctions and are used mainly in writing.
- They are usually separated from the sentences they link by punctuation.
- We usually place the adverb at the beginning of the second sentence of the pair we are linking, but we can sometimes also insert it into the sentence it introduces, separating it out with commas:

*There was an unprecedented response to our advert. I am afraid, **therefore**, we are not taking your application further.*

- We can also insert it before the verb (or after *be* or an auxiliary):

*There was an unprecedented response to our advert. I am afraid we are **therefore** not taking your application further.*

- Some adverbial expressions can be placed at the end of the sentence:

*The director didn't come to the launch. It was a success, **nevertheless**.*

2 Time and sequence

We use adverbials of time to describe sequences or stages in a process:

LINKING WORDS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
<i>afterwards, beforehand*</i>	one action happening after/before another	<i>Dinner will be served at 8.00. Afterwards, the Mayor will give a speech. I had a blood test last week and had to fast for 12 hours beforehand.</i>
<i>after that, then, next, following that</i>	a stage in a process	<i>Put a plastic cup in the holder, then select the drink you want and insert the correct coins.</i>
<i>eventually, finally, in the end</i>	last stage in a long process	<i>The police interviewed every male in the street and finally charged Jim Murphy with assault.</i>
<i>first(ly), second(ly), third(ly), finally</i>	sequence of events	<i>First, a verbal warning is given; second, two written warnings are given; third, a final warning is given, and finally the employee may be dismissed.</i>
	to number points in an argument	<i>The medical trial had to be abandoned: firstly, there weren't enough volunteers, and secondly, the company withdrew one of the drugs.</i>

* We usually only put *beforehand* at the end of a clause, not the beginning:

X I had a blood test last week. Beforehand, I had to fast for 12 hours.

3 Addition

We use *in addition*, *similarly*, *furthermore*, *what is more* and *moreover* to add something: *Approximately 3,500 years ago, a huge volcanic eruption devastated the island of Thera.*

In addition, it destroyed the successful Minoan civilisation on the island of Crete.

In conversation we prefer to use *also*:

*Can you post this letter when you go to the shops? **Also**, can you get me a bar of chocolate?*