


"Therefore" is used to show a logical consequence or result. It is usually found in the initial stages of a clause, either in the preliminary position or immediately before or after the verb.

Therefore, he needs to rewrite his essay.
 He therefore needs to rewrite his essay.
 He needs therefore, to rewrite his essay.




NB: When the discourse marker/linking word appears after the verb, a comma is needed before the following clause.

Apr 23-10:27

"Moreover" is used to add new information to a clause/idea. 'Moreover' has a similar function to 'furthermore' and always appears in the initial position in a sentence. As moreover adds information to an existing idea, it is not good practice to begin a paragraph with moreover.

The student's computer crashed. Moreover, the hard disk died and all of the student's data was lost.

The student's computer crashed; moreover, the hard disk died and all of the student's data was lost.





NB: 'Moreover' is followed by a comma. 'Moreover' can follow a semi-colon.

Apr 23-10:34

Furthermore is used to add information. It has a function almost identical to 'moreover'. It is found in the initial position in a sentence. It is not good practice to begin a paragraph with furthermore, because it is a connective word which adds information to a previously stated idea. You will lose cohesion in your text if you begin writing a paragraph with 'furthermore' as the idea you are trying to connect to is in the preceding paragraph. It is more difficult to maintain ideas across paragraphs, than within them.

The student handed out 60 questionnaires. Furthermore, they conducted 10 interviews so as to provide more comprehensive evidence.

NB: Furthermore is followed by a comma.

Apr 23-10:57

'However' is a linking word which is used to add an unexpected/surprising result, or to show contrast between 2 ideas. It can follow a fullstop or a semicolon. It is a useful word in a discursive essay as it helps to depict and emphasise the counter-argument.

The student was sick for much of the course; however, she still managed to achieve very good results in the final exam.

The student was sick for much of the course, however, she still managed to achieve very good results in the final exam.


The issue of plagiarism is arousing academic institutions' concern. Some lecturers blame students' lack of awareness of academic practice. However, numerous researchers, such as Hull and Rose (Hull and Rose, 1989, cited in Hall, 2004) state that poor language skills, cultural differences and paying too much attention to academic performance are the main reasons students plagiarise.

Apr 23-11:34

In addition is used to add information to an existing idea. It appears in the initial part of a sentence, comes after a fullstop and is followed by a comma. It is important not to confuse this structure with the 'in addition to-ing' structure, as the 2 structures perform very different functions. 'Additionally' is used interchangeably with 'in addition'.

According to Moore, Aiken and Chapman, the social status of women has raised in the mass media. In addition, Moore et al (2005 A) insist that 'Soap operas also tend to promote independent and assertive female characters, whereas male soap characters tend to be weaker'.

According to Moore, Aiken and Chapman, the social status of women has raised in the mass media. Additionally, Moore et al (2005 A) insist that 'Soap operas also tend to promote independent and assertive female characters, whereas male soap characters tend to be weaker'.



Apr 23-12:27

Although has the same meaning as 'even though' and generally appears in the initial, or mid position in a sentence. If in the initial position, it is not followed by a comma. It is in the mid position, it is preceded by a comma. 'Although' is often preceded by a conjunction such as 'and', or 'but' or a linking word, such as 'thus', or 'therefore'.

Although I completed a degree course in my own country, I still had to complete a foundation course in the UK before I could do my Master's degree.

I did my degree at Queen Mary, although originally I had wanted to study at Kings.

Furthermore, although charges are low, standards are going up.

And although I have to admit that I didn't revise very much, I still managed to scrape a pass in my exams.

Apr 23-13:32

Besides can be used as an adverb, as a preposition or as a linker.

Did you answer any questions besides the first 2?

I've written all my essays and a few extras besides.

I don't want to go to the library. Besides, I haven't got anything to study for. The course has finished.

When used as a linking word, 'besides' can be found in the initial or mid position of a sentence. When in the initial position, besides is sometimes followed by a comma, though not always. It depends on whether it is followed by a noun phrase, or a clause.

Besides general criticisms, there have been few instances of specific complaints.

Besides, when talking about hypnosis, we have to consider how receptive the patient is.

Two main differences, besides the obvious ones of level and subject interest, divide the students into groups.

It is a fact that the water supplies of the Anglian region, and others besides, are seriously polluted with nitrate.


Apr 23-13:32

Despite is used to contrast 2 ideas. 'Despite' is different in grammatical formation than 'despite the fact that' even though the fundamental meaning is the same. 'Despite' is often, though not always, followed by a gerund (click on the small icon beneath to link to find more information about gerunds and infinitives), and can appear in an initial, middle or end position in a sentence.

Despite its failings, British television is still very much an information medium rather than a propaganda tool.

British television is, despite its failings, still very much an information medium rather than a propaganda tool.

British television is still very much an information medium rather than a propaganda tool, despite its failings.



Despite missing the deadline, the student still managed to get a good mark on the essay.

Apr 23-13:32

'In spite of' denotes an unexpected surprise. It can appear in the initial position and mid position of sentences.

Rita calmly carried on in spite of this rather inconvenient technical hitch.

In spite of this rather inconvenient technical hitch, Rita calmly carried on/ Rita carried on calmly.

In spite of handing in work late, the student was still able to pass the module.

The student was still able to pass the module, in spite of handing in work late.

Apr 23-13:32

Nevertheless can denote an unexpected surprise, or a contrast between two items. It is synonymous with the word 'nonetheless'. It can take an initial or mid position in a sentence. It is often preceded by the conjunction, 'but', or with the words 'it is'.

Our team has never managed to win a game. Nevertheless, our resolve is still strong.

Our resolve is nevertheless strong, even though we haven't yet won a game.

The ideal of creating more casinos in British towns is attractive. Nevertheless, powerful objections can be made by residents.

A small movement, but nevertheless, a movement in the right direction.

It is nevertheless a false equation, and at times a seriously misleading one.

Jun 15-12:30