

1A GRAMMAR discourse markers (1): connectors

- Complete the texts with the discourse markers from the list.

so as a result consequently as because of so as to so as not to
so that (x2) in case but however although though despite

I would say that the most challenging period in my career so far was my first junior management position in the company where I still work today. I had always wanted to be an account manager, ¹ _____ *so* _____. I was thrilled when I got the job, but little did I know what was waiting for me on my first day. The office environment wasn't exactly organized, and to make matters worse, my boss was completely unsupportive of me. For some reason, he just refused to take any responsibility for dealing with the clients, and I was ² _____ forced to deal with all the problems by myself, which wasn't easy. I used to stay late at the office almost every night ³ _____ miss any of the clients' deadlines. It seems ridiculous now, but I was so stressed that I used to check my emails every couple of hours, even on weekends, ⁴ _____ there was an urgent message asking me to figure something out. It was worth it in the end ⁵ _____, because eventually my boss was fired and I was promoted in his place!



The toughest time I ever had was definitely my first semester here at college. ⁶ _____ I really love student life now, it wasn't so easy in the beginning. My bad luck started on the very first day. My parents had just dropped me off with all my stuff when some of the guys whose rooms were on the same hall as mine suggested going to play basketball in the park nearby. I don't know exactly how it happened, ⁷ _____ somehow, during the game, I tripped and fell really hard on my right arm and broke it. Apart from not being able to play any sports for weeks, it was especially annoying because my injury meant I wasn't able to write properly. ⁸ _____, I fell behind in one of my writing classes and I had to take an extra class in the next semester ⁹ _____ I could catch up. On top of that, it wasn't as easy as I had expected to find friends, and I was pretty homesick for a while. ¹⁰ _____, things got better eventually. Once my arm was better, I joined another basketball team and made a lot of new friends. I can look back now and laugh, but at the time things didn't seem so funny.



Most people can't wait until the day they retire, but I can tell you it's not as simple as you might think. ¹¹ _____ all the free time, retirement isn't just a question of enjoying yourself and feeling happy that you never have to work again. My husband Frank had a terrible time adjusting to the new lifestyle when he retired after forty rewarding years as a lawyer. ¹² _____ he had always been committed to his career, it wasn't easy just to give it up overnight. We decided to move to the suburbs ¹³ _____ be closer to our daughter and her family, but when we arrived, we found that they were all so busy with their own lives that they didn't have much time for us. Of course, we did babysit for her sometimes ¹⁴ _____ she could go out in the evenings, but somehow it wasn't the life we had imagined. Just when we were feeling really down, a friend of ours invited us along to a ballroom dancing class. Frank wasn't excited at first, as dancing isn't really his thing, but once we got there, we had a wonderful time. Now we go three times a week and it's changed our lives. We stay in shape and we've met so many fantastic people. And it's all ¹⁵ _____ the dance club. I don't know what we would have done without it!



activation

- Write your own paragraph about a challenging experience you have faced. You could write about your work, studies, or family. Explain what the challenge was, and how you survived it. If you can't think of anything from your life, write about a friend or relative.

In your paragraph, make sure you use at least five of the discourse markers from the list.

When you have finished, swap paragraphs with a partner, and check the discourse markers. Did your partner use them correctly?

1B GRAMMAR *have*

a Circle the correct form. Check (✓) if both are possible.

- 1 You should definitely catch that movie if you **hadn't seen it** / **haven't seen it** already.
- 2 **I've been reading** / **I've read** the same book for three months and I still haven't finished it.
- 3 I'm not going to her wedding because I **don't have** / **haven't got** anything to wear.
- 4 The thieves are thought **to escape** / **to have escaped** after the robbery.
- 5 **Don't you have** / **You not have** a TV? I thought everyone had one these days.
- 6 Don't give them a toaster as a present because they **already have** / **are already having** one.
- 7 Don't call me after seven because **I'll be having** / **I'll have** dinner.
- 8 Once the kids were older we **hadn't got to** / **didn't have to** drive them to school.
- 9 If you want to get rid of the stain on your jacket, you'll have to **have it dry cleaned** / **have dry cleaned it**.
- 10 I need to leave work early tonight. **I've got to** / **I have to** go to the dentist.

b Complete the dialogue with a suitable form of the verbs in parentheses.

PSYCHOLOGIST So, why ¹ have you come (come) to see me today?

PATIENT Well, I ² _____ (have) a really weird dream.

PSYCHOLOGIST I see. How long ³ _____ this _____ (go on)?

PATIENT About a month now, on and off. It's driving me crazy!

PSYCHOLOGIST Can you describe the dream for me?

PATIENT I'm in the middle of ⁴ _____ my hair _____ (cut), and suddenly I realize that the man doing my hair isn't Paul, my usual hairstylist...

PSYCHOLOGIST Go on...

PATIENT He's the strangest hairstylist I ⁵ _____ (see) in my life.

PSYCHOLOGIST Can you describe him?

PATIENT Well, he's really tall with little round glasses and he ⁶ _____ (not have) much hair.

PSYCHOLOGIST ⁷ _____ you _____ (have) any idea who this person might be?

PATIENT Yes. I ⁸ _____ (have) a horrible feeling it might be you!



activation

Complete the following sentences about yourself. Compare your answers with a partner.

- I'm really proud of the fact that I've...
- My worst characteristic is that I have a tendency to...
- One thing I often have to do that I'd rather avoid is...
- When I really want to have fun I...

2A GRAMMAR pronouns

- a** Read the following email and circle the correct pronouns.

New Message
To: Giovanna Rossi
From: Aileen Campbell
Subject: Visiting Glasgow!
<p>Hi Giovanna!</p> <p>Great to hear that you and Alessandro are going to be visiting Glasgow over the summer. I'm sure you're going to love it. As far as I'm concerned, ¹ there's / it's nowhere in the world quite like it.</p> <p>² It's / There's the people in Glasgow who really make the city something special. I think the whole way they express ³ them / themselves is very different from other parts of the UK. For example, ⁴ there's / it's not uncommon to exchange a few words with the person sitting next to ⁵ yourself / you on the bus or waiting in a line, and ⁶ you / one sometimes end up having a laugh with them, too! It's part of the city's outgoing spirit and sense of humor.</p> <p>You told me you're feeling a little nervous about understanding the Glasgow accent, but I don't think you need to worry too much about that. Of course ⁷ there's / it's the problem that the city has its own dialect, but everyone I know who's visited has been able to manage, and to find ⁸ his / their way around or go shopping by ⁹ themselves / himself.</p> <p>And you might be interested in listening for some of the expressions some Glasgow people use to address ¹⁰ one another / themselves. For example, if someone calls you "hen" don't be offended, because ¹¹ they / you aren't trying to say you look like a chicken! In fact it's an affectionate local greeting for women.</p> <p>Finally, ¹² it's / there's so much to see and do in Glasgow. I know you're passionate about art and architecture, so I think you'll really appreciate the amazing buildings and famous museums and galleries. And when you're done with that, there are some excellent places to eat, too.</p> <p>Have a great time!</p> <p>Aileen</p>

- b** Complete the following email with a suitable pronoun in each space.

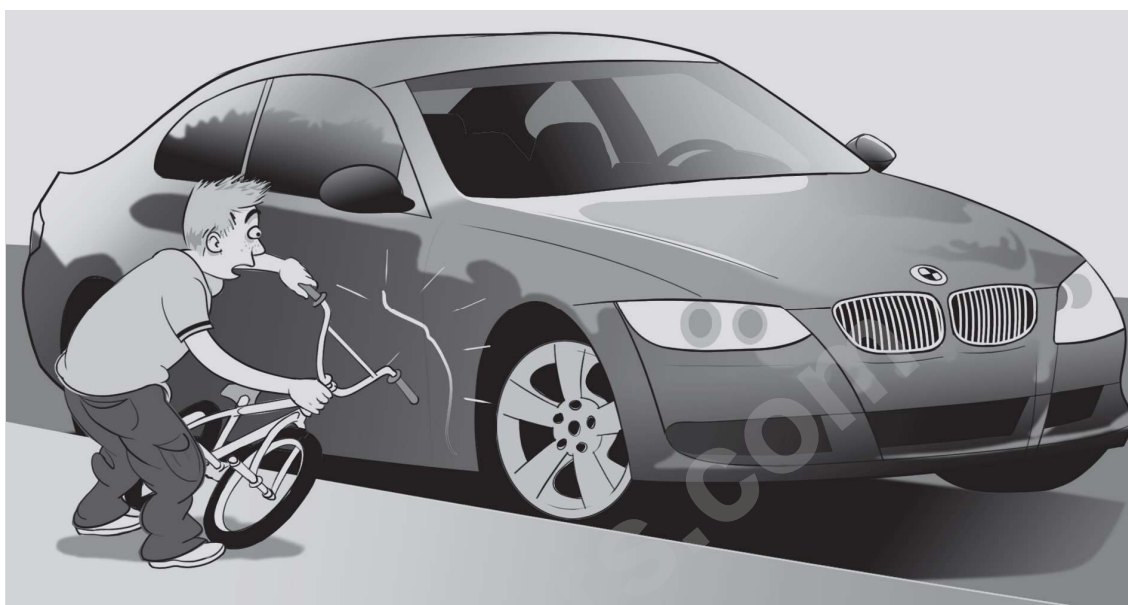
New Message
To: Sofia Gomez
From: Andy Fordham
Subject: RE: Austin, Texas
<p>Hi Sofia,</p> <p>What a great idea to take some time off from your job to study English in Austin, Texas. For anyone who wants to improve ¹ their language skills, I don't think ² _____ can be anything better than spending some time surrounded by the language.</p> <p>³ _____ say that one always learns more quickly when ⁴ _____ is forced to speak a language to survive! ⁵ _____ can't be denied that you will have that opportunity in Austin! Although it's a small city, it is a place for many kinds of learning, with its huge university of nearly 40,000 students and numerous schools and colleges where ⁶ _____ are able to study everything from astrophysics to English grammar!</p> <p>Anyone who arrives in Austin will soon realize that ⁷ _____ are in a truly international city. Most of the people who work in the stores and restaurants in town are used to dealing with visitors and international students, so I don't think you'll have much trouble making ⁸ _____ understood. As for the way people interact, well, I find that in general, they're very polite. I mean, if you are lost and need directions, ⁹ _____ are very happy to help you and answer your questions. However, people who don't know ¹⁰ _____ are less likely to go out of their way and start a conversation just to pass the time. You'll find that ¹¹ _____'s no shortage of historical and cultural attractions in Austin, from picturesque Town Lake to art museums and amazing live music venues. What's more, ¹² _____'s an easy bus or car ride from San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas, so you can easily link it with other destinations in Texas. Hope this is of some use. All the best for your trip,</p> <p>Andy</p>

activation

- Write your own email to a visitor from abroad, telling them what to expect when they visit the place where you live. In your email, try to use at least six of the pronouns from **a** and **b** above. When you have finished, swap emails with a partner and check the pronouns. Has your partner used them correctly?

2B GRAMMAR past: narrative tenses, *used to*, and *would*

- Read the story and put the verbs in the right form. There is sometimes more than one possibility.



When Tom turned twelve, his family ¹ *moved* (move) out of their apartment in the city to a huge house in the suburbs, near a park. Tom thought that he was the luckiest boy alive. The least attractive feature of Tom's new home was the inhabitant of the house next door. He was an extremely serious and strict middle-aged dentist who ² _____ (live) on the street for decades. Dr. Scorey, or, as Tom used to call him, "Dr. Scary," ³ _____ (look) uncomfortably like Dracula and he ⁴ _____ (frown) threateningly at his new neighbors whenever he saw them. Tom was absolutely terrified of him. The only thing Dr. Scorey seemed to care about was his BMW sports car, which he ⁵ _____ (wash) every Saturday no matter what.

One afternoon during summer vacation, Tom ⁶ _____ (play) soccer in the park when he suddenly ⁷ _____ (remember)

that his mother ⁸ _____ (tell) him to come home earlier than usual for dinner. He ⁹ _____ (jump) on his bike to ride home as fast as he could. However, just as he ¹⁰ _____ (pass) Dr. Scorey's BMW, he somehow lost control of his bike, crashed into the side of the car, and fell off. After picking himself up, he noticed to his horror that his bike ¹¹ _____ (make) deep scratches all down one side of the car! Tom was afraid to tell anyone, and spent all night imagining what horrible punishment ¹² _____ (await) him at the hands of his neighbor. In the end, he told his father, who went straight to Dr. Scorey's and arranged to pay for the damage. Tom never ¹³ _____ (hear) anything more about it, but from that day on, he ¹⁴ _____ (always get off) his bike at a very safe distance from Dr. Scorey's car, just in case.

activation

- Think of a time in your childhood when you did something wrong, and either got punished or managed to get away with it. Write a paragraph describing the incident. Swap paragraphs with a partner.