Practical Guide to Linking Words for Coherent Speech

۵ آبان ۱۴۰۵

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۱ Introduction: The Role of Linking Words in Coherent Speech

Linking words are the glue that connects sentences and ideas, turning speech from a list of disconnected sentences into a fluent, easy-to-follow text. According to the official IDP IELTS guide, cohesion and logical coherence are important in both Speaking and Writing, and speakers need to pay attention to this point in conversation. The effect of using linkers correctly shows up directly in your score.

A key point for learners is that speakers typically use simpler and less formal linkers than writers. In Speaking, therefore, the goal is balance: connect your ideas clearly, but avoid overloading when a simple *consequently* or *nevertheless* your speech with heavy, formal expressions such as sounds more natural. *so* or *but*

This guide presents the most important linking words for strengthening speaking skills, organized into seven practical categories. For each expression, the Persian meaning and a short usage note

are provided so the guide can be printed and reviewed both for personal study and for classroom use.

1. Adding Information ۲

These linkers signal that new information is being added to the previous idea, and they allow you to expand your answer instead of stopping after one sentence.

Persian Meaning and Usage	English Expression
«و» / «همچنین» — the simplest and most natural form in conversation	And / Also
«در addition به آن» — for adding an important point	In addition (to that)
«بعلاوه» — slightly more formal; suitable for Speaking Part 3	Furthermore / Moreover
«ضمناً / مهم‌تر اینکه» — very natural and conversational	s more'What
«غیر از این» — for adding a reason or a side point	Besides
«نه فقط... بلکه...» — a strong structure for double emphasis	... but also ... Not only

Example: "The city has a rich history. Moreover, it boasts a vibrant cultural scene."

moreover keep your speech light and fluent, while *s more'what* and ،*and* ،*also* In conversation, fit the more formal, argumentative style of Part 3. *furthermore* and

2. Showing Contrast and Opposition ۳

When you want to express a different or opposing idea, or raise an exception, these linkers make the direction of your speech clear to the listener.

Persian Meaning and Usage	English Expression
«اما» — simple and natural for any conversation	But
«با این حال» — more formal; for beginning a contrasting sentence	However
«اگرچه» — linking two contrasting ideas in one sentence	Though / Although
«از سوی دیگر» — for comparing two aspects	On the other hand
«با این وجود» — formal and emphatic	Nevertheless / Nonetheless
«برعکس / در مقابل» — highlighting a difference	In contrast / Conversely
«علی‌رغم...» — comes before a noun or gerund, not a full clause	Despite / In spite of
«در واقع» — for correcting or emphasizing; very common in conversation	Actually / In fact

Example: "The weather was cold. However, we still enjoyed our trip."

despite) form *-ing* are followed by a noun or an *in spite of* and *despite* Note the grammar trap: never by a complete clause. ،(*despite being tired* ،*the rain*

3. Expressing Cause and Result ۴

These linkers clarify the relationship between reason and result and make your reasoning appear a skill examiners specifically listen for. — logical

English Expression	Persian Meaning and Usage
Because / Since / As	«چون / زیرا» — connecting an effect to its cause
Because of / Due to	«به دلیل...» — a noun follows these, not a clause
So	«پس / بنابراین» — the shortest and most natural form in speech
Therefore	«بنابراین» — more formal; used for reasoned conclusions
As a result	«در نتیجه» — very common in both formal and informal styles
Consequently	«در نتیجه / پیرو آن» — formal; suitable for Part 3
That is why / For this reason	«به همین دلیل» — conversational and fluent

due to heavy) take a noun phrase *because of* and *due to* watch the structure: ،*despite* As with .(*because the traffic was heavy*) introduce a full clause *as* and ،*since* ،*because* while ،(*traffic*

4. Giving Examples and Showing Similarity ۵

Giving examples makes an abstract idea concrete, and showing similarity makes comparison easier. Together they are among the fastest ways to extend and support an answer.

Giving Examples ۱.۵

English Expression	Persian Meaning and Usage
For example / For instance	«مثلاً / برای مثال» — the most common form; the example follows
Such as / Like	«مثل / مانند» — *such as* is conversational; *like* slightly more formal
To illustrate	«برای روشن‌تر شدن مطلب» — for re-explaining in simpler language
In other words	«به عبارت دیگر» — for rephrasing your point
A good case in point is ...	«یک نمونه خوب از این موضوع...» — advanced and impactful

Showing Similarity ۲.۵

Persian Meaning and Usage	English Expression
«به همین صورت / به همین ترتیب»	Similarly / Likewise
«به همان شیوه»	In the same way
«در مقایسه با»	Compared to

a or *for instance* A practical habit: after stating a general opinion, follow it immediately with this combination of claim plus example is exactly the pattern examiners — ...*good case in point is* reward.

5. Summarizing and Concluding ۶

These expressions announce the end of a discussion and summarize the main point. They are especially useful in the IELTS Speaking test when your answer time is running out and you need to close gracefully.

Persian Meaning and Usage	English Expression
«در پایان / به‌عنوان نتیجه» — formal and classic	In conclusion / To conclude
«خلاصه اینکه» — for summing up several points	To sum up / In summary
«در مجموع» — natural and friendly	All in all
«در کل» — short and fluent	Overall
«اصولاً / اساساً» — for stating your final view in simple language	Basically / Essentially
«خلاصه کلام اینکه» — conversational and appealing	In a nutshell

are ideal for speaking because they signal a conclusion *in a nutshell* and ،*overall* ،*All in all* without sounding like a written essay.

6. Sequencing and Step-by-Step Development ۷

— These linkers are essential for telling a story, describing a process, or arranging ideas in order all frequent tasks in Part 2, where you must speak for two minutes about an experience.

Persian Meaning and Usage	English Expression
«اول و مهم‌تر از همه» — a powerful start	First and foremost
«نخست / دوم / سرانجام» — the classic structure	Finally / Secondly / Firstly
«در ابتدا» — the starting point of a process	Initially
«سپس / بعد از آن» — continuing the chain of events	Then / After that / Following that
«متعاقباً / هم‌زمان» — timing and progression	Meanwhile / Subsequently
«در نهایت / سرانجام» — the final result of a long process	Eventually / Ultimately

Example: "First, we visited the museum. Then, we went to the park."

Teaching note: According to IELTS specialist resources, starting every paragraph or answer for – creates a mechanical style; combining several varied linkers *Secondly* and *Firstly* with only leads to a higher score. – *eventually* and *following that*، *initially* example

۸ 7. Emphasizing

When you want to insist on a particular point so the listener understands its importance, these expressions add weight and focus to your speech.

English Expression	Persian Meaning and Usage
Particularly / Especially	«به‌ویژه / مخصوصاً» – highlighting one case
In particular / Specifically	«به‌طور خاص» – narrowing attention to one aspect
Undoubtedly	«قطعاً / بدون شک» – strong and confident
Indeed	«در حقیقت / واقعاً» – emphasizing the previous statement
Clearly / Obviously	«بدیهی است / واضح است» – pointing to an obvious point
… It is worth noting that	«شایان ذکر است که…» – formal and advanced
Above all / Most importantly	«مهم‌تر از همه» – final emphasis

Example: "The team's performance was excellent. Indeed, they exceeded all expectations.

۹ Quick Review: Choosing the Right Linker

The categories above are easy to memorize when you group them by the job each linker does:

- **To add:** *also*، *in addition*، *but*، *however*، *although*، *on the other hand*، *despite*
- **To contrast:** *but*، *however*، *although*، *on the other hand*، *despite*
- **To explain cause and result:** *because*، *due to*، *so*، *as a result*، *that is why*
- **To give examples:** *for instance*، *such as*، *in other words*، *a good case in point is*…
- **To compare:** *likewise*، *similarly*، *in the same way*، *compared to*
- **To conclude:** *all in all*، *overall*، *to sum up*، *in a nutshell*
- **To sequence:** *first and foremost*، *then*، *following that*، *eventually*
- **To emphasize:** *especially*، *indeed*، *obviously*، *most importantly*

Three habits will make any of these lists work in real speech: match the formality of the linker to the situation, vary your linkers instead of repeating the same one, and never use a linker as it must genuinely reflect the relationship between your ideas. – decoration