

1A GRAMMAR discourse markers (1): connectors

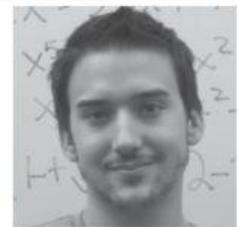
● Complete the texts with the discourse markers from the list.

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!

