

Discourse Markers - Linkers

Written Practice

A. 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 (2x) | 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. _____ I was thrilled when I got the job, but little did I know what was waiting for me that first day. The office environment wasn't exactly organized, and to make matters worse, my boss was completely unsupportive towards me. For some reason, he just refused to take any responsibility for dealing with clients, and I was 2. _____ forced to deal with all the problems by myself, which wasn't easy. I used to stay late in 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 very couple of hours, even at weekends, 4. _____ there was an urgent message asking me to sort something out. It was worth it in the end 5. _____, because eventually my boss was sacked, and I was promoted in his place.

The toughest time I've ever had was definitely my first term at university. 6. _____ I really love student life now, but it wasn't so easy at the beginning. My bad luck started on my very first day. My parents had just dropped me off with all the stuff when some of the guys whose rooms were on the same corridor 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 very hard on my right arm and broke it. Apart from not being able to do any sports for weeks, it was especially annoying because it meant I wasn't able to write properly. 8. _____, I got really behind with my essays and had to take extra classes later in the year 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 managed to get into the first basketball team and made loads 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 give up working, but I can tell you it's not quite as simple as you might think. 11. _____ all the free time, retirement isn't just a question of enjoying yourself and feeling delighted that you never have to work again. My husband Frank had terrible trouble 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 to give up overnight. We decided to move to the countryside 13. _____ be nearer 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 he 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 in the village. Frank wasn't keen 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 keep fit 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.