

FCE2 / Use of English / First Trainer - test 1 / Linking expressions

- Match the linking expressions to their meanings.

The linking expression ...	is used to ...
1. as long as	give a reason for an action / decision
2. no matter how / what / where	emphasise the importance of the final item in a list
3. not only	contrast ideas or say one thing is unlikely if the other is true
4. so as to	say one thing can only happen if another one happens too
5. despite the fact that	emphasise that sth. cannot be changed
6. on top of	say there is more than one problem
7. nevertheless	say that more than one (good or bad) thing is true
8. not to mention	contrast an idea to what has just been said

- Use **one** word only to complete each gap.

_____ ⁽¹⁾ the fact that the classes Mark enjoyed most at school were the art classes, he chose to study physics at university so _____ ⁽²⁾ to have a career in science. _____ ⁽³⁾ only did he do well in his studies, he also found a job in a research laboratory which he found interesting and satisfying. It looked as if all his dreams had come true.

_____ ⁽⁴⁾, Mark was not completely happy. He still dreamt of being an artist. And _____ ⁽⁵⁾ matter how hard he tried, he couldn't get the idea out of his head. After work, he would go home and paint, and he spent most of his weekends painting too. But he never felt he had enough time to create something he was really proud of. On _____ ⁽⁶⁾ of that, he was becoming exhausted because he worked in the lab for so many hours every day.

In the end, Mark spoke to his boss, and they agreed he could take six months off work, as _____ ⁽⁷⁾ as he promised to return to work after that. Mark devoted himself to his painting for six wonderful months, producing a series of beautiful pictures. However, he began to miss his colleagues, _____ ⁽⁸⁾ to mention the interesting work he did at the lab, so he didn't mind returning to work when the time came. Mark's paintings still hang on his walls at home, and he continues to combine his work and his art as best as he can.