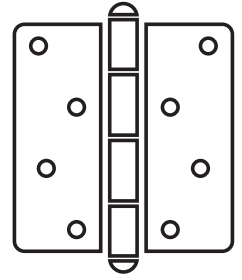


TOOL #8 - CONNECTING WORDS



- Join clauses, paragraphs, passages and chapters.
- Link the writer's train of thought.
- Examples: And, For, Because, Since, As a result, So that, At that time, Then, Now, When.
- Connecting words/phrases are common but very easy to overlook. Learn to recognize them, and the text completely opens up.

And

The conjunction AND serves to connect or join sentences, words or ideas. AND tells us that a particular word or part of a sentence should be added to what comes before.

When observing the text pay special attention to the word AND.

Example: Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Purpose or Result

Pay attention to these connecting words - So that, In order that. These connecting words are terms of purpose/result. These words indicate the intended goal of an idea or action. Think of it this way, the reason for which something is done.

Example Romans 1:11

"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong"

The "so that" gives us the reason why Paul longs to see those in Rome.



Under Note

Hint - "that" is not always a connecting word. Pay attention to the ones at the beginning of a sentence or phrase.

Explanation

Pay attention to these connecting words - For, Because. These connecting words are terms of explanation. They make the phrase plain or understandable. They give reason to why it is true or why it occurred. They explain!

Example: Genesis 3:5

"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Side Note

Keep in mind that not every time you see the word FOR and BECAUSE is it a connecting word. You need to pay attention to context.

Side Note

Notice how focusing on only the word FOR prompts numerous questions which increase our insights into the passage.

TOOL #9 - TERMS OF CONCLUSION

This is pretty much as straightforward as it sounds!
These words help us identify the result of something or the logical conclusion.

Words that indicate conclusion - Therefore, So, For this reason, So then.

Hint - not every use of the word SO is a term or conclusion.
Pay attention when SO is found at the beginning of the verse.

EXAMPLE "**Therefore**, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Ask yourself, what does the THEREFORE tell you?

You need to read the passage before! In order to know what Paul is concluding you need to know what he has said before.

EVERY TIME YOU SEE THE WORD THEREFORE YOU SHOULD ASK - WHAT'S IT THERE FOR?

LET'S PRACTICE- CONNECTING WORDS

READ John 4:1-26 for context.

Let's re-read "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24 NIV)

Look for the connecting word "and". What do you learn about worship from these verses?

(Think: Worship must be ____ AND ____.) _____

READ these verses: Philippians 2:14-15 (NIV)

What is the purpose or result of the command to "Do everything without grumbling or complaining?" (HINT: Look for the "so that") _____

READ this verse: 1 John 4:19 (NIV) "We love because he first loved us."

Why are we supposed to love others? _____

Reflect on the profound simplicity of this verse.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you love those around you and live out this verse this week.

LET'S PRACTICE- TERMS OF CONCLUSION

Let's READ : Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

5 In your relationships with one another,
have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;
7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Circle the THEREFORE

Why is the name of Jesus exalted above every other name?
(HINT: Read the verses before the "therefore!")

**Spend some time in prayer meditating on
the truths gleaned from this passage.**