RULE SHEET

Linking words: and, but, because, so, when, before, after, although

Linking words join two ideas. With them, your sentences are longer and your texts are easier to read.

Eight linking words

Word	Use	Example
and	adds an idea	I went to the park **and** I played football.
but	shows a contrast	The film was long, **but** it was exciting.
because	gives a reason	We stayed at home **because** it was cold.
so	gives a result	It was cold, **so** we stayed at home.
when	at that time	**When** I got home, my dog ran to the door.
before	earlier	I always brush my teeth **before** I go to bed.
after	later	**After** we had lunch, we went to the beach.
although	a surprising contrast	**Although** it rained, we played tennis.

Two ways to say it

- It was late, **so** we took a taxi. = We took a taxi **because** it was late.
- The water was cold, **but** we went swimming. = **Although** the water was cold, we went swimming.
- I had a shower. Then I had breakfast. = I had a shower **before** I had breakfast. = **After** I had a shower, I had breakfast.

Watch out! Put a **comma** after a **when / before / after / although / because** part at the start of the sentence: **When** it snows, we build a snowman. **Because** it was late, we took a taxi. Put a comma before **so**, and before **but** in a long sentence. In the middle of a sentence, a comma before **although** is optional. Never use **although** and **but** together: Although it was late, we played. (not: Although it was late, but we played.) For the future, use the present after **when, before** and **after**: I'll call you **when** I get home.

PRACTICE 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

and, but, because, so

1 Tick the best linking word.

1. I like cats, _____ my sister likes dogs. ○ and ○ but ○ because ○ so
2. It was sunny, _____ we had a picnic in the garden.
   ○ and ○ but ○ because ○ so
3. Ben stayed in bed _____ he had a cold. ○ and ○ but ○ because ○ so
4. We went to the shop _____ bought some bread. ○ and ○ but ○ because ○ so
5. The tickets were cheap, _____ we bought four. ○ and ○ but ○ because ○ so
6. The pizza smelled great, _____ it tasted terrible. ○ and ○ but ○ because ○ so
7. Mia was happy _____ she won the race. ○ and ○ but ○ because ○ so
8. I fed the cat _____ watered the plants. ○ and ○ but ○ because ○ so

2 Match the two halves of the sentences. Write the letter.

1. ☐ I was really hungry,
2. ☐ We couldn't play outside
3. ☐ Tom opened the window
4. ☐ The museum was free,
5. ☐ Lily laughed

a. because it was too hot in the room.
b. so I made a big sandwich.
c. and her brother laughed too.
d. because the weather was bad.
e. so she went to bed.
f. but the café was expensive.