

HISTORY AND POLITICS: connectors

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

GENERAL NOTE

Many of the grammar areas in Book 5, especially at the beginning of the book, are reviews and extensions of areas already covered in previous books. This means that we are not usually dealing with early learning confusions but with problems that have persisted in spite of considerable exposure, practice, and correction. Many of these problems may be turning into what are called *fossilized errors*. They are often avoided by students when concentrating on a focused grammar exercise, but occur regularly in free conversation and written composition. It is very important to involve our students in noticing these errors for themselves in free work as well as through performing focused remedial exercises.

- The grammar focus is on connectors. This includes conjunctions that join main clauses, such as *but*, conjunctions that introduce a subordinate clause, such as *although*, prepositions such as *in spite of* and adverbs that introduce sentences, such as *however* and *furthermore*.
- Spanish and Portuguese speakers may have problems with the grammatical differences between connectors that have the same basic function, leading to mistakes such as *In spite of she has no money, she . . . X* or *After that he became king, he . . . X*

ANSWERS

EXERCISE 1

Example: to introduce a contrast with the first sentence; must be an adverb since it is followed by a comma

- 1 **b then** (sequence)
- 2 **c in spite of** (preposition to express contrast needed here before *being*)
- 3 **a as a result** (adverb to express cause and effect needed here)
- 4 **b because** (to express cause and effect, and this time a conjunction to introduce a clause)
- 5 **b Although** (conjunction of contrast to introduce a subordinate clause)
- 6 **a Moreover** (adverb to add similar information)
- 7 **c so** (conjunction to introduce a clause expressing effect)

EXERCISE 2

- 1 In spite of being a dictator, Franco made Juan Carlos his successor.
- 2 The Spanish royal family live like ordinary people. Furthermore, they pay taxes.

- 3 Juan Carlos gained the respect of the people because he brought democracy to Spain.
- 4 Prince Felipe is unmarried. As a result, the Spanish newspapers are interested in his life.
- 5 In the U.K., Prince Charles eventually gave in to pressure and married a young woman.

Note: The adverb *eventually* usually goes before the main verb but could come at the end of the clause—*gave into pressure eventually*.

EXERCISE 3

Note: There may be several possible answers in these sentences. Allow all the possibilities given below.

Example: *but* is also possible but less likely than *although*

- 1 In the end, Eventually, Finally
- 2 As a result, Because of this, Therefore
- 3 then
- 4 Moreover, Furthermore, In addition
- 5 in spite of / despite

PERSONALIZE IT!

- Write five connectors expressing different types of connections on the board, e.g. *although*, *because*, *therefore*, *in addition*, *after that*. Ask the students to work independently for five minutes to write five sentences about their lives or opinions, each using a different connector, e.g. *My parents are both very musical, therefore I can play the piano well*. The students can compare their sentences in pairs and then report to the class on any interesting facts about their partners.

HISTORY AND POLITICS

EXERCISE 1

Read the text and choose the correct connector from the answers below.

The Spanish monarchy is one of the few successful monarchies in the modern political world. ..., that was not the situation for much of the 20th century. King Alfonso XIII was deposed in 1931 and the Second Republic was formed, but that led to the Spanish Civil War in 1936, which was won by Franco and his right-wing coalition. Franco became a dictator and (1) ... ruled the country for over 35 years, (2) ... being a supporter of the monarchy. When Franco died in 1975, Alfonso's grandson, Juan Carlos, became king. He brought democratic elections to the country only 18 months later and, (3) ..., gained the respect of the people. King Juan Carlos and his family have kept that respect since then, partly (4) ... they live like ordinary people. (5) ... they have royal palaces, the family use the palaces for state occasions only. (6) ..., the royal family pay tax like normal people. Both the king's daughters are married but his son, the heir to the throne, remains single, (7) ... many young Spanish women live in hope of marrying into this normal royal family!

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|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| a) Then | b) But | c) However |
| 1 a) therefore | b) then | c) besides |
| 2 a) although | b) finally | c) in spite of |
| 3 a) as a result | b) next | c) because |
| 4 a) so | b) because | c) although |
| 5 a) However | b) Although | c) In spite of |
| 6 a) Moreover | b) Eventually | c) After that |
| 7 a) but | b) because | c) so |

EXERCISE 2

Rewrite the sentences, using the connector given.

*The Spanish king was deposed in 1931.
However, the monarchy was restored in 1975.
Although the Spanish king was deposed in 1931,.....
the monarchy was restored in 1975.....*

- 1 Although Franco was a dictator, he made Juan Carlos his successor.
In spite of being

- 2 The Spanish royal family live like ordinary people. They also pay taxes.
The Spanish royal family live like ordinary people. Furthermore,
- 3 Juan Carlos brought democracy to Spain. Therefore he gained the respect of the people.
Juan Carlos gained the respect of the people because
- 4 Prince Felipe is unmarried. The Spanish newspapers are therefore interested in his life.
Prince Felipe is unmarried. As a result,
- 5 In the U.K., Prince Charles gave in to pressure and married a young woman in the end.
In the U.K., Prince Charles eventually

EXERCISE 3

Fill in the blanks with a suitable connector. More than one may be possible.

*I decided to vote in the election, ... **although** ... I disagree with all of the political parties.*

- 1 The 1950s and 60s saw a race between the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union to reach the Moon., the U.S.A. reached it first.
- 2 Huge advances were made in the 20th century in health and medicine., people in the developed world live longer than ever before.
- 3 Cellphone technology has developed fast recently: first text messages, next photo messages, video messages.
- 4 Many young people do not vote today. They feel that there is little difference between political parties., they feel that politics doesn't offer them anything.
- 5 Many people in the U.K. still support the royal family its behavior in recent years.