HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH, BECAUSE, SO, AND TIME CONNECTORS

CONTRAST
HOWEVER (pero)
However means ‘but’.
However is normally used at the beginning of a sentence, before a comma (,) and after a full stop (.) or a semicolon (;).

- We didn’t like the hotel. However, he had a good time.
- I would like to have a cat; however, my daughter is allergic to cats.

ALTHOUGH (a pesar de, aunque)
Although means ‘despite the fact that’, or ‘but’.
Although can be used at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. We do not use a comma after although; we use although + subject + verb.

- Although he had a bad leg, he still won the game.
- I passed the exam, although I hadn’t studied.

REASON
BECAUSE (porque)
We use because + subject + verb.

- We had to cancel the concert because it was raining.
- I didn’t call you because I didn’t want to worry you.

BECAUSE OF (por, a causa de)
We use because of + noun.

- We had to cancel the concert because of the rain.
- Many shops had to close because of the economic situation.

RESULT
SO (por lo que, así que)
So is the most common connector to express result. It is normally used in the middle of a sentence after (,).
Connectors

- We worked hard all morning, so I am very tired now.
- The TV is very expensive, so I don’t think I’ll buy it.

TIME

BEFORE (antes, antes de)
We use can use before + noun / -ing verb, or we can use before + subject + verb.
- Before I have breakfast, I read a few pages.
- Before having breakfast, I read a few pages.
- Before breakfast, I read a few pages.

AFTER (después, después de)
We use can use after + noun / -ing verb, or we can use after + subject + verb.
- I smoke a cigarette after dinner/ having dinner/ I have dinner.
When we are talking about consecutive actions, we can use then of after that, but we cannot use *after.
- I got up and had a shower. Then/After that, I made breakfast.

WHILE (mientras)
We use while + subject + verb to talk about actions happening at the same time, simultaneously.
- I read the newspaper while I was waiting.

AS SOON AS, WHEN, ONCE (tan pronto como, cuando, una vez que)
As soon as, when, and once have a similar meaning. As soon as means ‘immediately when’.
- As soon as/when/once I get home, I’ll finish my homework.
We use present simple, and NOT will to express future after as soon as, when, and once.
- When I get home, I’ll call you.
We use a comma after the first part of the sentence when we start with before, after, while, as soon as, etc. But we do not use a comma if we use before, after, while, as soon as, etc in the second part of the sentence.
- Before I go to bed, I brush my teeth.
- I brush my teeth before I go to bed.
Exercises

Choose the correct forms for the gaps below.

1. We need to buy a new car. _____, we can't afford it right now.
   a. Although
   b. So
   c. However

2. _____ he is very rich and famous, he lives a very normal life.
   a. Although
   b. However
   c. Because

3. They had to cancel the concert _____ the bad weather.
   a. so
   b. because of
   c. however

4. We'll go out _____ it stops raining.
   a. although
   b. while
   c. as soon as

5. He didn't have his car, _____ he had to take a taxi.
   a. because
   b. so
   c. however

6. _____ he was almost deaf, he was a fantastic musician.
   a. Although
   b. However
   c. Because

7. He was expelled from school _____ his bad behaviour.
Connectors

a. although
b. however
c. because of

8 _____ she has a bit more experience, she'll become a fantastic teacher.
a. Once
b. Before
c. While

9 The first thing I do when I get up is have breakfast. ______, I have a shower and go to work.
a. After
b. Before
c. After that

10 I usually read the newspaper ______ I'm having breakfast.
a. while
b. after
c. as soon as

Answers

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
ca b c b a c a c a
Exercise 2

Fill in the gaps with the connectors in the box below.

| after / after that / although / as soon as / because / because of / before / however / once / so (x2) |

1. ________ I arrived home, I put on my pyjamas and I lied down on the sofa. I was exhausted and I wasn’t very hungry, 2. ____________ I decided not to have anything for dinner. I just got a glass of milk from the fridge. 3. ____________ I lied on the sofa and I turned on the TV 4. ________ I wanted to watch a film. 5. ________, there was nothing interesting on TV. I decided to go to bed, 6. ____________ I wasn’t very sleepy. Once I was in bed, I remembered that I had to take my medication. I can’t sleep well at night 7. ____________ my insomnia, 8. ____________ I always take a sleeping tablet 9. ____________ I go to bed. 10. ________ taking the sleeping tablet, I went back to bed and I could finally sleep.

Answers

1.- As soon as  - 2.- so  - 3.- After that  - 4.- because  - 5.- However  - 6.- although  - 7.- because of  - 8.- so 9.- before  - 10.- After
Exercise 3

Choose so, because, but, although to complete the sentences below.

1. We couldn't find a taxi, ______ we walked home.
2. ______ it was very cold, she wasn't wearing a coat.
3. I woke up ______ there was a noise.
4. I called him ______ his mobile was turned off.
5. ______ she's very nice, she doesn't have many friends.
6. There was nothing on TV, ______ I went to bed.
7. All the cafés were full ______ it was a public holiday.
8. She studied quite hard ______ she failed the exam.
9. She was crying ______ her team lost the match.
10. They wanted to win ______ it was impossible.

Answers

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