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10 Connecting Words to Raise Your Score

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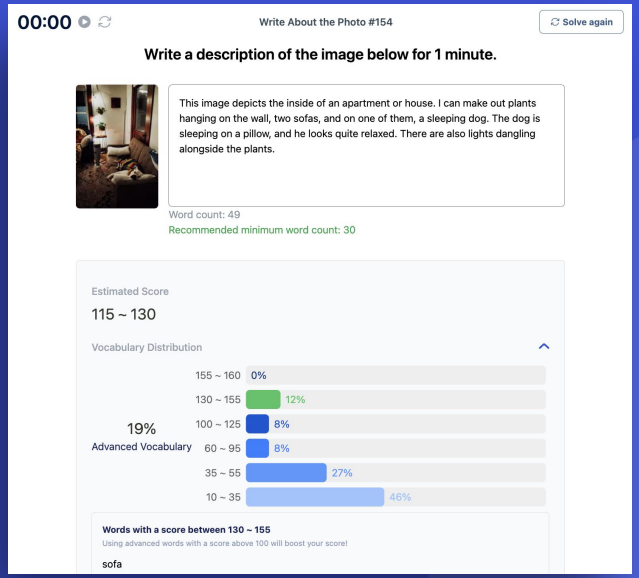

We have a full video lesson that teaches you how to use all of this vocabulary! Watch it here.

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1. For instance

- This is a direct synonym for “for example”.
- However, it is a little rarer, so it can get you more points on the test 🙂
- *There are a lot of beautiful places in California.* ***For instance****, Lake Tahoe is gorgeous year round.*
- *Many great writers have come from Ireland,* ***for instance*** *James Joyce.*
- Note! ☝ “For instance” does not require a new sentence.

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2. On one hand & on the other hand

- This is an elegant way to show contrast.
- ***On one hand**, I like going to the beach for vacation. **On the other hand**, it can be very expensive.*
- You don't always need "on one hand". It can be implied.
- *He does not have the required degrees for the position. **On the other hand,** he has a lot of relevant experience.*

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3. Therefore

- This is a formal way to indicate that something causes something else.
- In other words, it's a synonym for "so".
- *He did not study for the exam.* ***Therefore****, he did not pass.*
- *The young man tutored many younger students.* ***Therefore****, he won a community service award.*
- Note! ☝ You need to start a new sentence when using "therefore."

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4. Firstly, secondly, thirdly, finally

- This is an excellent way to structure responses to long writing and speaking questions like the Writing Sample and Speaking Sample.

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4. Firstly, secondly, thirdly, finally

Prompt: Do you prefer team sports or individual sports? Provide reasons and examples.

I prefer team sports for several reasons.

***Firstly**, it is fun to be part of a team. It is like having a second family.*

***Secondly**, team sports teach us important life lessons. For example, I have learned how to compromise with other people thanks to team sports.*

***Thirdly**, team sports have less pressure. If I don't play well in a match, I can rely on my teammates to help me.*

***Finally**, I find team sports more interesting. You have to think about how to play well with the rest of the team, not just how to play well individually.*

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5. Next

- This is a simple way to move from one idea to another in a sequence.
- It is especially useful when telling a story.

  I had a wonderful weekend. On Saturday, I woke up and went for a run.
  ***Next**, I had brunch with my family.*

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6. In other words

- This is an elegant way to introduce when you are clarifying or explaining something, usually in simpler terms.
- *The climate model predicts a significant increase in temperature over the next century. **In other words**, it's going to get much hotter than it is now.*
- *The project has experienced significant challenges. **In other words**, it will not be completed on time.*

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7. Furthermore

- This a direct synonym for “moreover.”
- “Furthermore” indicates the continuation of an idea or additional information that builds on the previous ideas.
- *The young woman is highly intelligent.* ***Furthermore****, she works very hard.*
- *The bad economy has made the prime minister unpopular.* ***Furthermore****, he is being investigated for corruption.*

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7. Furthermore

- ☝️ Be careful with this word! It is often misused.
- ❌ *I like chocolate ice cream.* ***Furthermore****, my best friend likes strawberry.*
- ✅ *I like chocolate ice cream.* ***However****, my best friend likes strawberry.*
- Don't use it more than once. In other words, **don't** do this:

I prefer team sports for several reasons.

Firstly, it is fun to be part of a team. It is like having a second family.

❌ ***Furthermore****, team sports teach us important life lessons. For example, I have learned how to compromise with other people thanks to team sports.*

❌ ***Furthermore****, team sports have less pressure. If I don't play well in a match, I can rely on my teammates to help me.*

❌ ***Furthermore****, I find team sports more interesting. You have to think about how to play well with the rest of the team, not just how to play well individually.*

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8. Moreover

- This is a direct synonym for “furthermore.”
- Everything we just covered about “furthermore” also applies to “moreover.”
- You can alternate using “moreover” and “furthermore” to get more points.

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9. Additionally

- This is a close synonym of “furthermore” and “moreover.”
- You can also think of it as a synonym for “also.”
- *Exercise will make you healthy. **Additionally**, it will make you feel great.*
  - We could have instead said: *Exercise will make you healthy. It will **also** make you feel great.*
- *He was unhappy about his grade on the test. **Additionally**, he got a bad grade on a project in another class.*

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10. Similarly

- This is an elegant way to emphasize when two ideas are similar.
- *He decided to join the army. **Similarly**, his sister became a police officer.*
- *New York is wonderful to visit because it has so many great restaurants. **Similarly**, Paris also has a lot of delicious food.*