**Varying your Connectives**

**Connectives** are words such as **and** or **but** which can be used to join together sentences to form longer ones. However, your writing will be more interesting if you use a variety of connectives, such as:

**after because so though where who although if since until which yet as or then when while before whereas**

**Activity 1.**

Choose connectives from the box above and write out the following sentences, completing the gaps. Try not to use a connective more than once. The first one has been done for you.

1. There was no bus for an hour **so** we decided to take a taxi.
2. She carried on running \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ she had strained her ankle.
3. He couldn’t get the hang of it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I had explained the rules.
4. Everybody was there by 1p.m. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the game didn’t start until 2.45.
5. Warren slipped inside and took the papers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sheila created a diversion.
6. My parents have grounded me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I stayed out until 3a.m.
7. I borrowed Julie’s racquet \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it was better than mine.
8. I haven’t been able to play football \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I sprained my ankle two weeks ago.
9. You can tidy your room \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you have finished your dinner.

**Activity 2.**

Look carefully at some examples of your own recent writing. Underline the connectives you use. Could you improve your writing by using a greater variety of connectives?

**Turning sentences around**

Look again at the nine sentences above. Each one is made of two sentences joined by a connective:

*You can go and tidy your room* ***when*** *you have finished your dinner.*

Some of these sentences can be reversed, beginning with the connective. For example:

***When*** *you have finished your dinner, you can go and tidy your room.*

Notice that we have put a comma between the two halves.

**Activity 3.**

Look at the nine sentences above and decide which ones can be reversed.

Write out the reversed versions of the sentences you have picked out. Make sure you add in the commas!

ANSWERS

**Varying your Connectives**

**Activity 1.**

Choose connectives from the box above and write out the following sentences, completing the gaps. Try not to use a connective more than once. The first one has been done for you.

Possible answers:

1. There was no bus for an hour **so** we decided to take a taxi.
2. She carried on running \_although\_ she had strained her ankle.
3. He couldn’t get the hang of it until\_ I had explained the rules.
4. Everybody was there by 1p.m. \_yet\_ the game didn’t start until 2.45.
5. Warren slipped inside and took the papers, while Sheila created a diversion.
6. My parents have grounded me \_because\_ I stayed out until 3a.m.
7. I borrowed Julie’s racquet \_since\_ it was better than mine.
8. I haven’t been able to play football \_as\_ I sprained my ankle two weeks ago.
9. You can tidy your room \_when\_ you have finished your dinner.

**Activity 2.**

Look carefully at some examples of your own recent writing. Underline the connectives you use. Could you improve your writing by using a greater variety of connectives?

**Activity 3.**

Look at the nine sentences above and decide which ones can be reversed.

Write out the reversed versions of the sentences you have picked out. Make sure you add in the commas!

Possible answers:

1. I had explained the rules but he couldn’t get the hang of it.
2. The game didn’t start until 2.45. yet everybody was there by 1p.m.
3. While Sheila created a diversion, Warren slipped inside and took the papers.
4. Because I stayed out until 3a.m., my parents have grounded me.
5. Since it was better than mine, I borrowed Julie’s racquet.
6. As I sprained my ankle two weeks ago, I haven’t been able to play football.
7. When you have finished your dinner, you can tidy your room.