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Practise contrast connectors

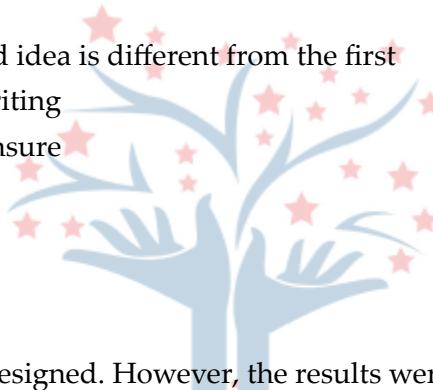
Contrast / Opposition – Very Clear Explanation

1. However

Purpose: to show a general contrast or limitation

- Use however when the second idea is different from the first
- Very common in academic writing
- Safest choice when you are unsure

Think: *But...*



Examples:

The experiment was carefully designed. However, the results were inconclusive.

The product is affordable; however, its durability is questionable.

→ A limitation is added after a positive point.

! Common confusion

Students think however is very strong.

✓ In fact, it shows a normal contrast.

2. Nevertheless

Purpose: to show a strong or surprising contrast

- Use nevertheless when the second idea happens despite the first



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- Stronger than however
- Formal academic tone

Think: *Even so...*

Examples:

The task was extremely challenging. Nevertheless, the team completed it successfully.

The company faced heavy losses. Nevertheless, it continued to expand internationally.

► **The result is surprising.**

! Common confusion

Students use nevertheless for every contrast.

✓ **Use it only when the contrast is unexpected or strong.**

3. In contrast / On the other hand

Purpose: to compare two different things

- Used when comparing two ideas, people, places, or options
- Common in balanced arguments and comparisons
- Not used for limitations

Think: *This vs that*

Examples:

Urban areas experienced rapid development. In contrast, rural regions declined.

The first proposal focused on innovation. On the other hand, the second prioritised cost reduction.

► **Two different things are compared.**



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! Common confusion

Students replace however with these connectors.

- ✓ Only use them when two different subjects are mentioned.

4. Yet

Purpose: to show contrast inside one sentence

- Short and direct
- Used within the same sentence
- Often joins adjectives or clauses

Think: *but (inside one sentence)*



Examples:

The solution was simple, yet highly effective.

The task was difficult, yet achievable.

→ Opposite ideas in one sentence.

! Common confusion

Students start a new sentence with yet.

- ✓ Yet stays inside the sentence.

One-Look Student Rules (Very Important)

- However → safest general contrast
- Nevertheless → strong or surprising contrast



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- In contrast / On the other hand → comparison of different things
- Yet → short contrast inside one sentence

Final Memory Tip for Students

Ask yourself:

Is this contrast surprising?

Yes → nevertheless

No → however

Am I comparing two different things?

Yes → in contrast / on the other hand

Am I still in the same sentence?

Yes → yet



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Fill in the Blanks

1. The experiment was carefully designed. _____, the results were inconclusive.
2. The product is affordable; _____, its durability is questionable.
3. The task was extremely challenging. _____, the team completed it successfully.
4. The company faced heavy losses. _____, it continued to expand internationally.
5. Urban areas experienced rapid development. _____, rural regions declined.
6. The first proposal focused on innovation. _____, the second prioritised cost reduction.
7. Online learning offers flexibility. _____, it limits face-to-face interaction.
8. The policy reduces expenses. _____, it may affect service quality.
9. The solution was simple, _____ highly effective.
10. The instructions were brief, _____ easy to understand.
11. The data was limited. _____, meaningful trends were identified.
12. The deadline was tight; _____, the team delivered quality work.
13. The technology is outdated. _____, it remains widely used.
14. The weather conditions were poor. _____, the event was successful.
15. The northern region prospered. _____, the southern region struggled economically.
16. The method is efficient; _____, it requires specialised training.
17. The argument is convincing. _____, it lacks sufficient evidence.
18. The proposal was risky, _____ it was approved unanimously.
19. The system is expensive. _____, it offers long-term benefits.
20. The course is demanding. _____, many students choose to enrol.



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Answer Sheet with Clear Explanations

1. However

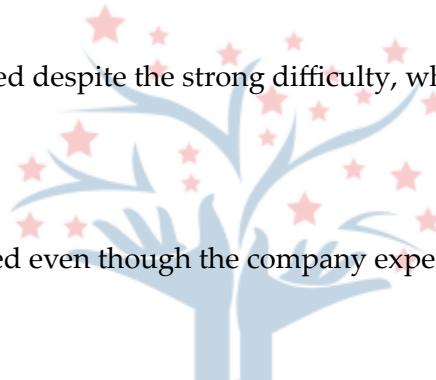
Explanation: The second sentence limits the positive impression created by the first sentence.

2. However

Explanation: A weakness (durability) is introduced after a positive point (affordability).

3. Nevertheless

Explanation: The team succeeded despite the strong difficulty, which makes the contrast surprising.



4. Nevertheless

Explanation: Expansion occurred even though the company experienced heavy losses.

5. In contrast

Explanation: Two different regions are directly compared to highlight their differences.

6. On the other hand

Explanation: A second option is introduced to balance the first proposal.

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7. On the other hand

Explanation: A disadvantage is presented after an advantage to show balance.

8. However

Explanation: A limitation is added to a generally positive outcome.

9. Yet

Explanation: The contrast appears within the same sentence and links two qualities.

10. Yet



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Explanation: Two opposite ideas are joined in one sentence, which suits “yet”.

11. Nevertheless

Explanation: Useful results were found despite the limitation of the data.

12. Nevertheless

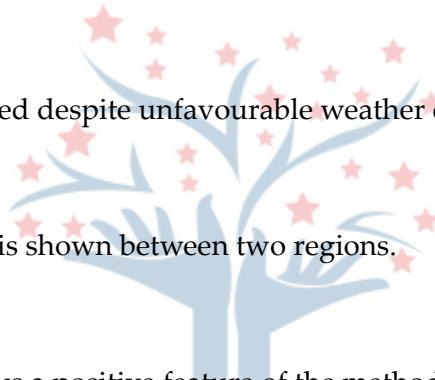
Explanation: Quality work was delivered even though time pressure existed.

13. However

Explanation: The continued use of outdated technology contrasts with expectations.

14. Nevertheless

Explanation: The event succeeded despite unfavourable weather conditions.



15. In contrast

Explanation: A clear difference is shown between two regions.

16. However

Explanation: A drawback follows a positive feature of the method.

17. However

Explanation: The convincing argument is weakened by missing evidence.

18. Yet

Explanation: Approval is unexpected given the level of risk, within one sentence.

19. Nevertheless

Explanation: Long-term benefits exist despite the high cost.

20. Nevertheless

Explanation: Students enrol even though the course is demanding.



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Practise Addition connectors

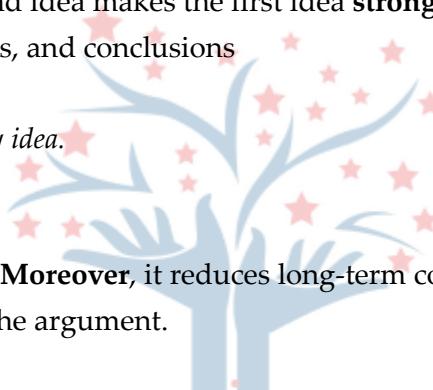
Addition / Reinforcement – Very Clear Explanation

1. Moreover

Purpose: to strengthen an argument

- Use **moreover** when the second idea makes the first idea **stronger**
- Common in essays, arguments, and conclusions
- Formal academic connector

Think: *This extra point proves my idea.*



Example:

The policy improves efficiency. **Moreover**, it reduces long-term costs.
→ Reducing costs strengthens the argument.

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2. In addition

Purpose: to add a new idea

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- Use **in addition** to introduce another point
- Does not strengthen the argument
- Neutral academic tone

Think: *Here is one more thing.*

Example:

The report includes financial data. **In addition**, it contains customer feedback.
→ Feedback is extra information, not proof.



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3. Additionally

Purpose: to add extra information in reports or lists

- Very similar to in addition
- Common in reports, descriptions, and plans
- Neutral academic tone

Think: *Another item on the list.*

Example:

The system monitors usage. Additionally, it sends automatic alerts.

4. Also

Purpose: to add simple information inside a sentence

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- Used inside a sentence, not at the beginning
- Common in everyday and academic English
- Neutral tone

Think: *Same sentence, one more idea.*

Example:

The program is affordable and also easy to use.



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5. And

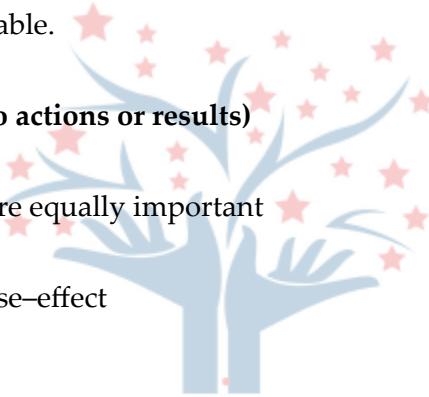
Purpose: to connect ideas directly

(a) Connecting words or phrases

- Joins similar ideas
- Formal and informal usage

Example:

The course is flexible and affordable.



(b) Connecting two clauses (two actions or results)

- Shows two actions or results are equally important
- Shows addition or sequence
- Does not show contrast or cause–effect

Examples:

The company reduced costs **and** improved efficiency.

The training improved skills **and** increased confidence.

The policy is expensive **and** it is effective. (incorrect for contrast)

The policy is expensive. **However**, it is effective.

One-Look Student Rules (Very Important)

- **Moreover** → strengthens your argument
- **In addition / Additionally** → adds new information



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- **Also** → simple addition inside a sentence
- **And** → joins similar ideas or actions

Final Memory Tip for Students

Ask yourself:

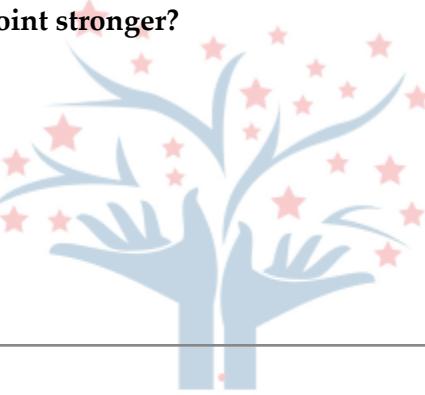
Does this extra idea make my point stronger?

Yes → **moreover**

No → **in addition / additionally**

Am I still in the same sentence?

Yes → **also / and**



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Practice Sheet – Fill in the Blanks (20)

1. The course is flexible. _____, it provides recorded lectures.
2. The new policy reduces costs; _____, it improves efficiency.
3. The model is accurate. _____, it uses real-world data.
4. The report includes survey results. _____, it contains interview findings.
5. The company invested in training. _____, it upgraded its software systems.
6. The solution is affordable and _____ easy to implement.
7. The program supports beginners. It _____ helps advanced learners.
8. The study was well designed; _____, it used a large sample size.
9. The app tracks spending. _____, it provides saving recommendations.
10. The system is secure. _____, it meets industry standards.
11. The organisation improved customer service _____ reduced response time.
12. The device is lightweight. _____, it is durable.
13. The article explains the theory. _____, it offers real-world examples.
14. The team met the deadline _____ stayed within budget.
15. The platform offers live classes and _____ includes practice tests.
16. The research used secondary data. _____, primary data was collected.
17. The product is popular. _____, it has strong reviews.
18. The manager praised the team and _____ rewarded them with bonuses.
19. The plan includes marketing activities. _____, it covers risk management.
20. The training improved skills _____ increased confidence.



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Answer Sheet with Clear Explanations

1. In addition

Explanation: Adds another feature in a neutral academic way.

2. Moreover

Explanation: The second clause strengthens the argument by adding an extra benefit.

3. Moreover

Explanation: Using real-world data strengthens the claim of accuracy.

4. Additionally

Explanation: Sounds like a report listing contents, not an argument.

5. In addition

Explanation: Shows one action followed by another added action.

6. also

Explanation: The blank is inside the sentence; “also” fits grammatically.

7. also

Explanation: “It also helps” is the standard mid-sentence pattern.

8. Moreover

Explanation: A large sample size strengthens the claim that the study was well designed.

9. Additionally

Explanation: Adds another app feature in a neutral, descriptive way.

10. Moreover

Explanation: Meeting standards strengthens the positive description of security.

11. and



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Explanation: Two related actions are connected with equal importance.

12. Moreover

Explanation: “Durable” strengthens the positive description after “lightweight”.

13. Additionally

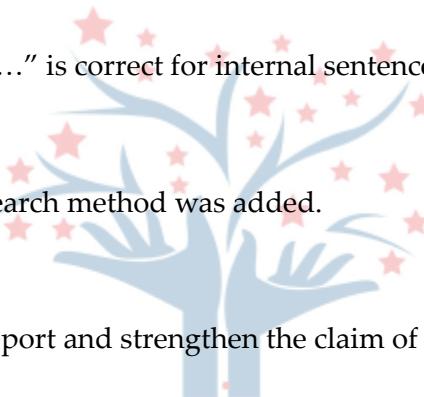
Explanation: Adds extra content details in a report-style sentence.

14. and

Explanation: Two achievements are linked directly and equally.

15. also

Explanation: “And also includes...” is correct for internal sentence addition.



16. In addition

Explanation: Shows another research method was added.

17. Moreover

Explanation: Strong reviews support and strengthen the claim of popularity.

18. also

Explanation: Parallel verbs (“praised” and “rewarded”) suit “also”.

19. Additionally

Explanation: Sounds like listing sections of a plan.

20. And

Explanation: Two result of the training are linked with equal importance.



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Practise Concession Connectors

Concession – Very Clear Explanation

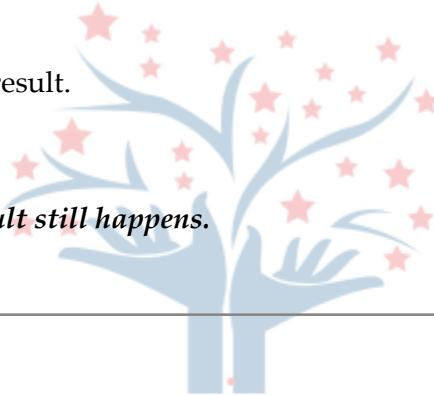
What is a concession?

A **concession** shows that something happens **even though** there is a problem, difficulty, or negative fact.

The problem does **not stop** the result.

Think:

This problem exists, but the result still happens.



1. **Although**

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Purpose: to introduce a concession

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- Shows an **unexpected result**
- Used with a **full clause** (subject + verb)
- Common in academic writing
- Formal tone

Think: *Even though...*

Examples:

Although the cost was high, the project was approved.

The product was popular, **although** it was expensive.



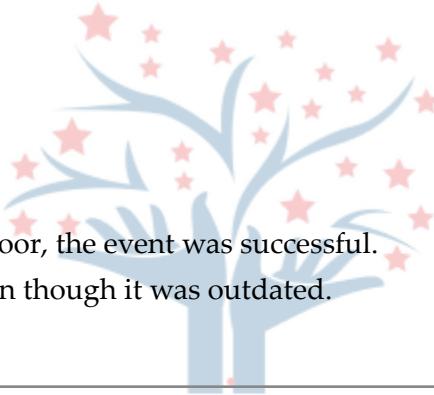
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2. Even though

Purpose: to introduce a strong concession

- Stronger than **although**
- Emphasises the size or seriousness of the problem
- Used with a **full clause**

Think: *Despite the fact that...*



3. Though

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Purpose: to show concession (less formal)

- Same meaning as although
- More common in spoken English
- Can appear at the beginning or end of a sentence

Examples:

Though the task was difficult, it was completed on time.
The solution worked, though it was not perfect.



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4. Despite

Purpose: to show concession before a noun or verb + ing

- Formal academic connector
- Followed by a noun, pronoun, or verb + ing
- Not followed by a full sentence

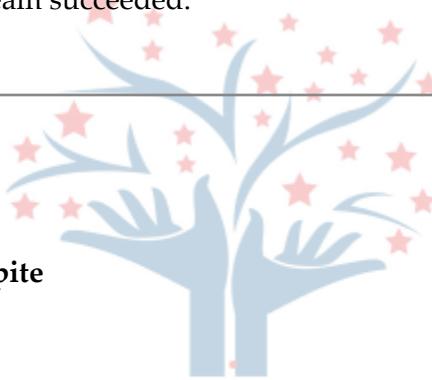
Examples:

Despite the high cost, the project was approved.

Despite facing challenges, the team succeeded.

5. In spite of

Purpose: same meaning as despite



- Same grammar as despite
- Slightly longer and more formal

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Examples:

In spite of the delay, the delivery was successful.

In spite of limited resources, the study was completed.

! Very Common Student Confusion (Important)

✗ Despite it was expensive

✓ Despite the expense

✗ Although the delay

✓ Although the delay was long



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One-Look Student Rules (Very Important)

- **Although / Even though / Though** → followed by a **full clause**
- **Despite / In spite of** → followed by a **noun or verb + ing**
- Concession = **unexpected result despite a problem**

Memory Tip for Students

Ask yourself:

Is there a problem or difficulty?

Yes → use a **concession connector**



Is the next part a full sentence?

Yes → **although / even though / though**

No → **despite / in spite of**

Concession – Practice Sheet (Simplified)

Word Bank

although | though | despite

Tip for Students (READ THIS FIRST)

- **Although / Though / Even though** → have the **same meaning**



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- ✓ followed by a **full sentence (subject + verb)**
- **Despite / In spite of** → have the same meaning
- ✓ followed by a **noun or verb + ing**, NOT a full sentence

Focus on **grammar**, not meaning.



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Fill in the Blanks (10)

1. _____ the cost was high, the project was approved.
2. The product sold well, _____ it was expensive.
3. _____ the delay, the delivery arrived on time.
4. _____ the instructions were unclear, the task was completed correctly.
5. The solution worked, _____ it was not perfect.
6. _____ facing technical issues, the system continued to operate.
7. _____ the policy was unpopular, it was implemented.
8. The device functions well, _____ its age.
9. _____ the task was difficult, the team completed it on time.
10. The experiment succeeded, _____ several limitations.

Final One-Line Rule for Students

- Full sentence after the connector? → although / though
- Noun or verb + ing after the connector? → despite



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Answer Sheet with Clear Explanations

1. **Although**

Explanation: Followed by a full sentence ("the cost was high").

2. **though**

Explanation: Used at the end of a sentence with a full clause.

3. **Despite**

Explanation: Followed by a noun ("the delay"), not a sentence.

4. **Although**

Explanation: A full sentence follows and shows an unexpected result.

5. **though**

Explanation: Appears at the end and connects two clauses.

6. **Despite**

Explanation: Followed by verb + ing ("facing").

7. **Although**

Explanation: Followed by a full clause showing concession.

8. **Despite**

Explanation: "Its age" is a noun phrase.

9. **Although**

Explanation: A full sentence follows ("the task was difficult").

10. **Despite**

Explanation: "Several limitations" is a noun phrase.



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Practise Cause and Effect Connectors

Result / Cause–Effect – Very Clear Explanation

What is a result connector?

A result connector shows that **one thing happens because of another thing**.

Think:

This happened → so this happened.



1. Therefore

Purpose: to show a logical conclusion

- Used when the second idea is a decision or conclusion
- Common in academic arguments
- Formal tone

Think: *So, logically...*

Example:

The data was unreliable. **Therefore**, the results were questioned.



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2. As a result

Purpose: to show a practical or real outcome

- Used when something actually happens
- Common in reports and descriptions
- Neutral academic tone

Think: *Because of this, something happened.*

Example:

The system failed. **As a result**, operations were halted.

3. Consequently

Purpose: to show a direct and formal consequence

- Used when the cause–effect link is clear and direct
- More formal than as a result
- Often used in academic conclusions

Think: *This directly led to that.*

Example:

The deadline was missed; **consequently**, penalties were imposed.

Student Tip / Takeaway (Read This First)

- **Therefore** → logical decision or conclusion
- **As a result** → real action or event



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- **Consequently** → strong, direct, formal result

All three show **cause** → **effect**, but the **type of result matters**.



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Practice Sheet – Result Connectors

Word Bank

therefore | **as a result** | **consequently**

1. The data was incomplete. _____, the findings were unreliable.
2. The system crashed. _____, all services were temporarily unavailable.
3. Demand declined sharply; _____, prices were reduced.
4. The hypothesis was rejected. _____, further testing was required.
5. Funding was withdrawn. _____, the project was cancelled.
6. The deadline was missed; _____, penalties were imposed.
7. The method proved ineffective. _____, an alternative approach was adopted.
8. Staff shortages increased. _____, response times were affected.
9. The results were inconsistent. _____, the conclusions were revised.
10. Safety procedures were ignored. _____, several accidents occurred.

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Final Student Reminder

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- Thinking / deciding → therefore
- Something happens → as a result
- Very direct + formal → consequently



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Answer Sheet with Clear Explanations

1. Therefore

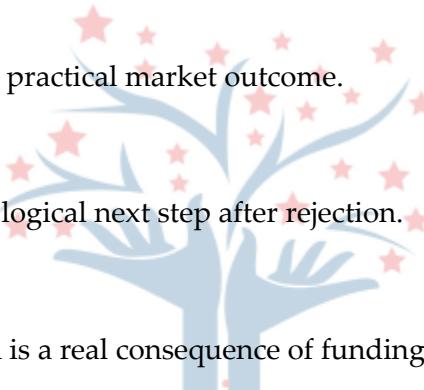
Explanation: Questioning reliability is a logical conclusion, not a physical action.

2. As a result

Explanation: Service unavailability is a real event that happened.

3. As a result

Explanation: Price reduction is a practical market outcome.



4. Therefore

Explanation: Further testing is a logical next step after rejection.

5. As a result

Explanation: Project cancellation is a real consequence of funding loss.

6. Consequently

Explanation: Penalties directly followed the missed deadline in a formal context.

7. Therefore

Explanation: Choosing a new approach is a decision based on reasoning.

8. As a result

Explanation: Response delays are real effects of staff shortages.

9. Therefore

Explanation: Revising conclusions is a logical response to inconsistent results.



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10. Consequently

Explanation: Accidents are a direct and serious outcome, fitting formal tone.

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