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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## 6 Minute Vocabulary

### Linking words



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*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Rob**

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Rob...

**Catherine**

And I'm Catherine. And this programme is all about linking words, the words and phrases we use to connect ideas and events when we speak or write.

**Rob**

Yes, we call them linking words and phrases. They help people to follow what we're saying by showing how ideas are connected to each other.

**Catherine**

**First**, we'll look at some examples ...

**Rob**

**Next**, there will be a short quiz...

**Catherine**

... and **finally**, we'll leave you with a top tip for learning vocabulary.

**Rob**

But to start with, let's listen to Angela talking about a lucky escape she had. While you listen, try to answer this question: who or what saved Angela in the end?

**Catherine**

Here's Angela

**INSERT**

**Presenter**

So Angela, tell us: what did you escape from?

**Angela**

A shark.

**Presenter**  
**Wow! Really...?**

**Angela**

Yes, **what happened was** I was swimming off the coast, when **all of a sudden**, I saw a huge black shape coming towards me. **To begin with**, I thought it was a dolphin ...

**Presenter**

But it wasn't. So, **what happened next?**

**Angela**

Well, I **then** quickly realised it was a shark. **Luckily**, I'm a very fast swimmer. But **in the end**, it was a boat that saved me.

**Rob**

That's an incredible story! We asked: who or what saved Angela?

**Catherine**

It was a boat. Angela said "**In the end**, a boat saved me."

**Rob**

Lucky lady. Now Angela helped us to follow her story by using linking words and phrases to tell us what happened, when it happened and how she felt about it. Let's have a look at some of them.

**Catherine**

OK, right, now the first one was right at the beginning. Angela said "**What happened was...**" and this is a really good way to introduce a story because it grabs the listener's attention and it tells them to get ready to hear a story. Have a listen.

**Angela**

**What happened was** I was swimming off the coast, when **all of a sudden**, I saw a huge black shape coming towards me.

**Rob**

OK, good start. Now another way to tell your story clearly is to use words that show the order of events. Catherine and I did this at the beginning of this programme when we used words like **First**, **Next** and **Finally**: **First**, we'll look at examples ...,

**Catherine**

**Next**, there will be a short quiz ...

**Rob**

And **finally**, we'll leave you with a top tip ....

**Catherine**

Exactly. Now let's listen to how Angela used words and phrases like these.

**INSERT**

**Angela**

**What happened was** I was swimming off the coast, when **all of a sudden**, I saw a huge black shape coming towards me. **To begin with**, I thought it was a dolphin ...

**Presenter**

But it wasn't. So, **what happened next?**

**Angela**

Well, I **then** quickly realised it was a shark. **Luckily**, I'm a very fast swimmer. But **in the end**, it was a boat that saved me.

**Catherine**

So, when you get to the end of your story use a phrase like **in the end** or **finally** to show that your story's about to finish.

**INSERT**

**Angela**

But in the end it was a boat that saved me.

**Rob**

OK. Now, let's hear Angela tell us how the boat saved her.

**INSERT**

**Angela**

**Fortunately**, the boat had already seen the shark and fired a rocket, which scared the creature off.

**Presenter**

That was lucky!

**Rob**

Wow, so Angela uses the adverb **fortunately** as a linking word to comment on this.

**Catherine**

Yes and in the first clip Angela said: "**Luckily, I'm a fast swimmer.**" Other comment adverbs you may hear include **unfortunately**, **sadly** and so on. And we can also use adverbs and adverbial phrases like **suddenly** or **all of a sudden**, which we heard in the first clip to say how things happen.

**STING**

**Rob**

We're talking about words and phrases that link different sentences and parts of a story

**Catherine**

Yep and it's time for a quick recap. So, to start a story we had ...

**Rob**

**Well, what happened was ...**

**Catherine**

For ordering events:

**Rob**

**First of all, to begin with, then, next, after that...**

**Catherine**

To finish a story ...

**Rob**

**Finally, in the end.**

**Catherine**

To make a comment:

**Rob**

**Luckily, unfortunately, sadly**

**Catherine**

And lastly we had:

**Rob**

**Suddenly, all of a sudden**

**Catherine**

Great, now it's quiz time. Choose the correct linking word or phrase to fill the gaps.

Number one: I tried for weeks to get a ticket to the final. [sfx: beep] I gave up. Is it a) In the end or b) Next.

**Rob**

It's a) **In the end.**

**Catherine**

Well done. Number two. It started to rain. [sfx: beep] I had an umbrella with me. Is it a) Suddenly or b) Luckily.

**Rob**

It's b) **Luckily.**

**Catherine**

Finally, number 3: Which is the correct phrase to introduce your story? Is it a) What happened was ... or b) What happened it ... ?

**Rob**

And it's a) **What happened was ...**

### **Catherine**

It is, and well done to you if you got those right. Now before we finish here's Rob with a quick tip for learning vocabulary.

### **Rob**

Yes, why not make a note of new linking devices when hear other people speak English – on the bus, waiting in a queue or watching TV. Note them on your phone or just write them down somewhere and then try to use them yourself.

### **Catherine**

Top tip Rob, thank you. There's more about this at BBC learning English dot com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

### **Both**

Good bye!

## **STING**

### **Vocabulary points to take away**

#### **To start a story:**

What happened was ...

#### **To end a story:**

In the end ...

#### **Sequencing**

Firstly / To begin with / To start with

Next / Then / After that

In the end / Finally

#### **Showing interest**

Wow!

Really?

What happened next?

#### **Adverbs**

Fortunately

Unfortunately

All of a sudden

Luckily

Quickly