

Reading English News On the Internet



**A Guide to
Connectors
Verbs
Expressions &
Vocabulary**



For the ESL Student

**Plus tips and strategies to help make sense of
online NEWS, BUSINESS and SPORTS articles**

Dr. David Petersen

Reading English News on the Internet (General Edition)
A Guide to Connectors, Verbs, Expressions, and Vocabulary for the ESL
Student

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Dedicated to SuperMandy

For the Teacher

The purpose of this book is to help ESL learners at the intermediate level with the potentially confusing turns of phrase common to English articles online, in magazines and in newspapers. ESL veterans will appreciate that while many books cover English grammar and vocabulary, there are precious few dealing specifically with idioms, “quirky” verbs, and other compound constructs from a practical perspective. My goal has been to create a workbook systematic enough to integrate easily into any classroom situation, to make the learning experience as efficient and painless as possible. The text also provides a brief introduction to proverbs and other sayings that find their way into news articles from time to time.

The concept for the book originated in my experience as a Japanese translator. Working at an agency in Hiroshima, I was struck by the number of questions I was fielding from coworkers trying to make sense of English newspaper articles and other challenging documents. On closer inspection, most of the difficulties seemed to involve idioms (“on the loose”, “public outcry”) - constructs that are poorly covered in many textbooks and are difficult to look up due to their compound nature. In discussing this issue with friends and teachers it became apparent that related grammar elements such as connectors (“as...as a...”) and verbs of one type or another (“to show promise”) present similar problems for non-native speakers. I began collecting examples of the most commonly-misunderstood “offenders”, and ultimately put together the manuscript over the course of about two years.

Applications: On one level, the book functions as a simple guide to the meanings of nearly 200 connectors, phrasal verbs, idiomatic verb-phrases, and expressions. Individual sections can also be introduced a few pages at a time into almost any classroom context, gradually building English comprehension. To develop full lessons of 40 minutes or more, I would recommend supplementation with materials on mass-media, the internet, and current events. The “tips” sections on website content deal with the typical structure of online articles, and are best covered as part of a writing class with internet access. The mini-quizzes at the end of each unit

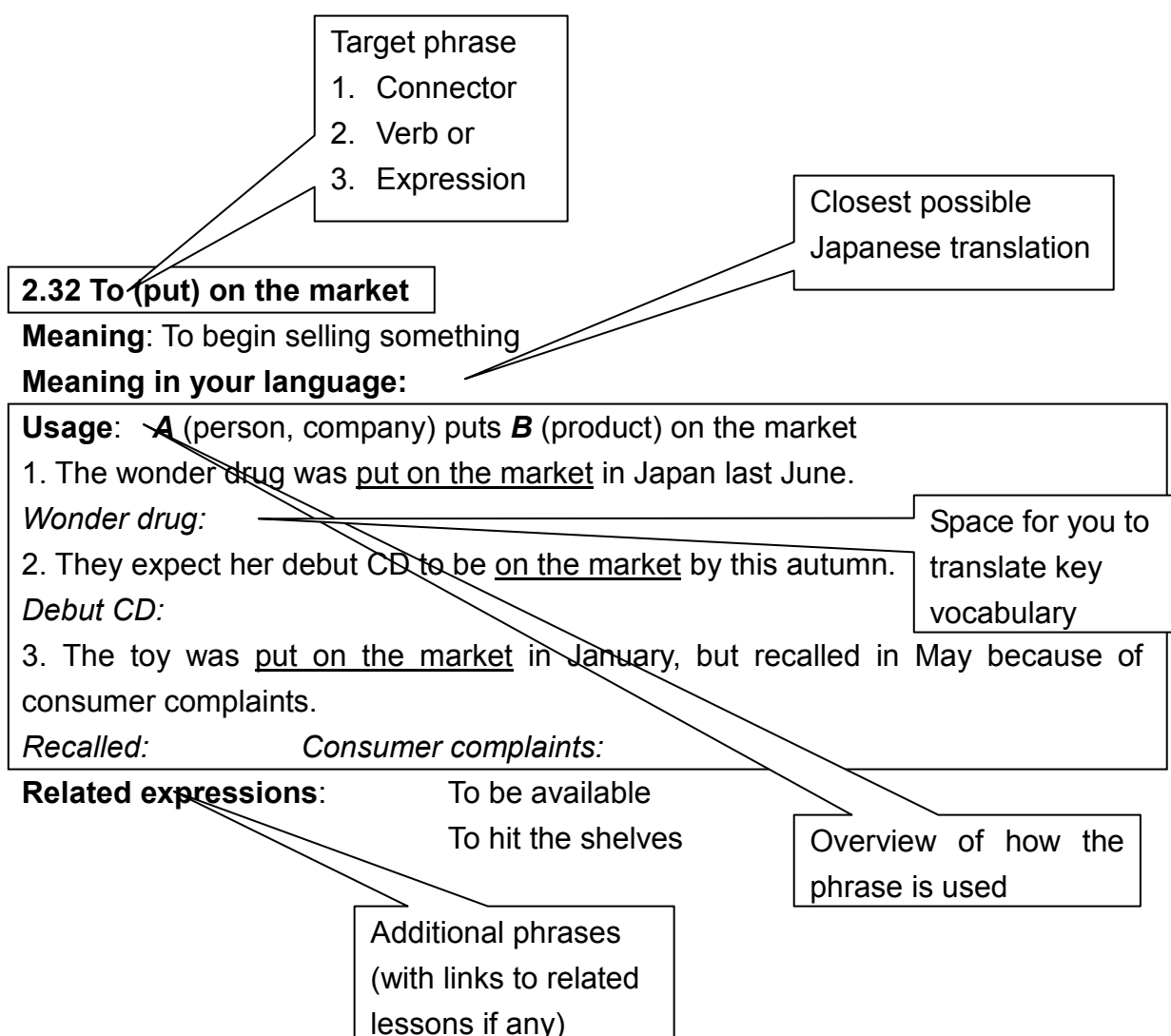
provide immediate feedback about the progress of the students, and can also serve as a template for the creation of your own tests and exams

Lesson Overview

The vocabulary in this book is divided into three major sections:

- Connectors (“provided that”, “in spite of”) linking two or more phrases or sentences together
- Verbs with an emphasis on phrasal verbs (“to pull out of”, “to put into”) and idiomatic verb phrases (“to burn the midnight oil”)
- Expressions (“a meeting of the minds”, “a matter of time”)

Each entry is organized as follows:



The Tips Sections

These mini-lessons deal with the nitty gritty of finding articles online, navigating a typical website, understanding differences in vocabulary and style by topic, and anticipating structure to increase reading efficiency. Each section can stand alone, but is also suitable for development as a classroom exercise, particularly if internet access is available.

TIPS 1: A list of basic computer-related terms

TIPS 2: A list of popular English-language news websites

TIPS 3: Typical vocabulary required for registration and for logging in to websites.

TIPS 4: Guide to Online News Articles

- a) The basic structure of a news articles
- b) Features of headlines, including vocabulary and style; suggestions for preparation
- c) Strategies for reading headlines
- d) Features of a byline
- e) Features of the lead, and reading strategies
- f) The body and final paragraph

TIPS 5: A list of useful business and finance websites

TIPS 6: Getting the most out of business and finance articles. Coverage includes the sections of a typical website, stock market vocabulary, a review of news-article structure, and the format of financial advice and predictions.

TIPS 7: A list of popular sporting news websites

TIPS 8: Online sporting news. This section covers the basics of a sports website, key vocabulary and writing style (emotive words), sports article structure, and the elements of sports features.



A world of English awaits....



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Section I: Connectors



1.1 As a

Meaning: Talking about someone's role, title or rank

Meaning in your language:

Usage: As an **A** (role, title, rank)

1. He has been working as a medical x-ray technician since he graduated from vocational college.

Medical x-ray technician:

Vocational college:

2. He first came to Japan as a tourist, but later returned as a United Nations goodwill ambassador.

Tourist:

United Nations:

Goodwill ambassador:

3. The medical establishment has strong doubts that the herb is useful as a cancer treatment.

Medical establishment:

To have doubts:

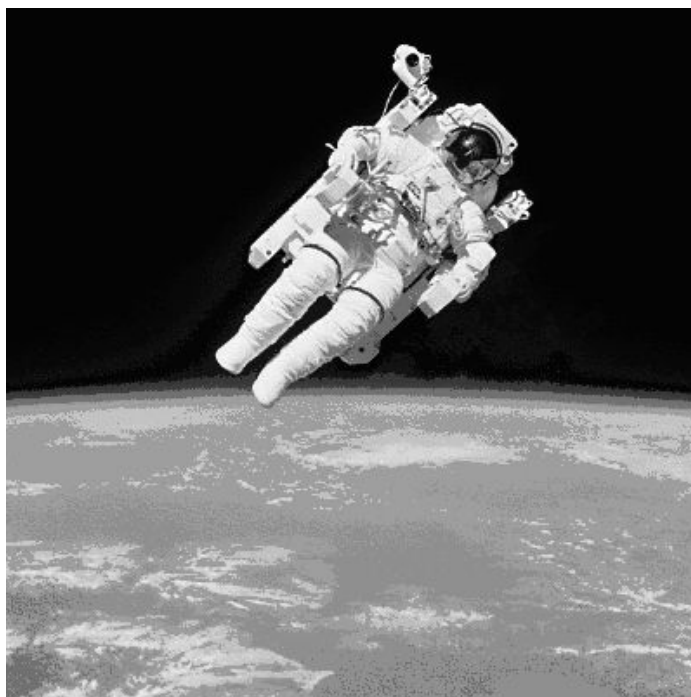
Herbs:

Cancer treatment:

Related expressions:

Moonlighting as

Making a living as



She works as an astronaut

1.2 As far as... is concerned

Meaning: Someone's viewpoint or opinion

Meaning in your language:

Usage: As far as **A** (person) is concerned **B** (viewpoint, opinion)

1. As far as I am concerned, you don't have to finish the work today, but the boss may disagree.

To finish the work today:

2. As far as the credit agency is concerned, the most important thing in the world is financial security.

Credit agency:

The most important thing in the world:

Financial security:

3. As far as our company is concerned, the sales this year were very disappointing.

The sales this year:

Related expressions:

From where I'm sitting

The way I see it



As far as I'm concerned, education is very important

1.3 As opposed to

Meaning: Something is the opposite of something else.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (situation), as opposed to **B** (opposite situation)

1. I did very well in academic endeavors, as opposed to my brother, who excelled at basketball and other sports.

Academic endeavors:

Excel at sports:

2. Metropolitan Tokyo is a crowded place to live, as opposed to Hokkaido, which has very few people.

Crowded:

Metropolitan Tokyo:

3. Australia collected 16 medals at the Olympics, as opposed to Canada, which collected only 1.

To collect a medal:

Related expressions:

Like night and day

Worlds apart

1.4 Be that as it may

Meaning: Something is true, despite something else

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (fact). Be that as it may, **B** (fact, action)

1. I have a bad cold. Be that as it may, I still have to go to work today.

Bad cold:

Go to work:

2. It's true that I don't love your sister. Be that as it may, I promised her that I would marry her, so I have no choice.

To promise to marry:

3. Yes, I know I'm in the kitchen. Be that as it may, I've got my hands full at the moment - make your own cup of tea!

Got my hands full:

To make tea:

Related expressions:

Even though

In any case

1.5 Considering (the / that / how)

Meaning: Something is true, but only because of the situation.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (fact, opinion), considering that **B** (qualified, point of view)

1. The weather is very hot today, considering the time of year.

Time of year:

2. He did very well on his bar exam considering that he cut classes and didn't study all year.

To do well on a test:

Bar exam:

Cut classes:

3. The new DVD player sold quite well considering how little advertising it had in the newspapers and on television.

To sell well:

Advertising:

Related expressions:

All things considered

Given that...

1.6 Even so

Meaning: "I agree with you, but I am not changing my mind."

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (fact). Even so, **B** (contrary fact)

1. I agree that the movie was overly long. Even so, the acting was great and I really enjoyed it.

Overly long:

Acting is great:

2. Yes, I agree that he is a rather dull person. Even so, he's the best accountant our company has ever employed.

Dull person:

Accountant:

3. Yes, I know that it may rain later. Even so, I'm going on the picnic.

Picnic:

Related expressions:

Nonetheless

Be that as it may

1.7 If worse comes to worst

Meaning: Imagining the worse possible outcome; being pessimistic

Meaning in your language:

Usage: If worse comes to worst, **A** (action, plan)

1. If worse comes to worst and I'm still sick tomorrow morning, then I will stay in bed.

To stay in bed (when sick):

2. If worse comes to worst and I can't get tomorrow off, I will telephone you.

To get tomorrow off:

3. If worse comes to worst and he is forced to resign from politics, at least he can find work as a public speaker.

To resign from politics:

Public speaker:

Related expressions:

Worst-case scenario

If it comes to that



If worse comes to worst, we can always finish tomorrow

1.8 (In) a bid to / for

Meaning: Someone is trying to get something.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: In a bid to **A** (goal), **B** (person, group) does **C** (action)

1. The new tax cuts are part of the mayor's bid for re-election.

A tax cut:

Mayor:

Re-election:

2. In a bid to stop the protestors, the company offered to move the new construction site away from the riverbank.

Protestors:

Construction site:

Building site:

3. In a bid to improve the city image, City Hall decided that all municipal buses would be repainted.

City Hall:

Municipal buses:

To repaint:

Related expressions:

In an attempt to

In the hope that

1.9 In anticipation of

Meaning: Preparation for an event

Meaning in your language:

Usage: In anticipation of **A** (prediction), **B** (person, group) does **C** (action)

1. The logging company started a promotional campaign in anticipation of resistance from local residents and environmental groups.

Logging company:

Promotional campaign:

Environmental groups:

2. In anticipation of a big lawsuit, the chemical factory offered the widow a large sum of money.

Lawsuit:

Chemical factory:

Widow:

3. The boutique hired new staff in anticipation of the Christmas rush.

Boutique:

To hire:

Christmas rush:

Related expressions:

Looking ahead

With an eye to

1.10 In response to

Meaning: As one thing changes, so does another thing.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: In response to **A** (event, circumstances), **B** (action)

1. In response to strong public pressure, the planning department has decided to cancel the construction of the new airport.

Public pressure:

Planning department:

Construction:

2. In response to the increasing spread of HIV, the government is starting a new education program for teenagers.

The spread of HIV:

Education program:

3. The concert has been moved to next weekend in response to the flooding of the arena.

Moved to next week:

Flooding:

Arena:

Related expressions:

In accordance with

Based on



Famous Saying

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. (See 1.15)
(Aesop 620 to 560 BC)

1.11 In spite of

Meaning: Action is taken, even though the situation is dangerous or difficult.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: In spite of **A** (circumstances), **B** (action)

1. In spite of the incredible heat wave, many people came to the festival.

Incredible:

Heat wave:

2. He said that he will remain a sports commentator in spite of the growing scandal.

Sports commentator:

Growing scandal:

3. The car company was confident that it would succeed, in spite of the recent poor sales performance.

Car company:

To succeed:

Sales performance:

Related expressions:

Despite

Against all odds



It was a good picnic, in spite of the ants

1.12 Instead of

Meaning #1: One thing replaces another thing.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: Instead of **A** (action), **B** (another action)

1. Instead of quarreling all the time, why don't you try to listen to each other?

Quarreling:

2. Instead of eating at home last night, we went out to a fancy restaurant.

Fancy restaurant:

Meaning #2: The result was unexpected; the opposite thing happened

Meaning in your language:

1. Instead of helping his fever, the medicine only made his condition worse.

Fever:

Condition:

2. To everyone's surprise, instead of approving the new legislation, the governor vetoed the bill.

To approve legislation:

Governor:

To veto a bill:

Related expressions:

Rather than (Meaning #1)

Out of the blue (Meaning #2)



Famous Saying

What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters, compared to what lives within us. (See 2.47)

(Henry David Thoreau 1817-1862)

1.13 In the event of

Meaning: If something happens, something else will occur.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: In the event of **A** (situation), **B** (action)

1. In the event of a fire, please use the stairs, not the elevator.

Fire:

Elevator:

2. Train services will be stopped temporarily in the event of an earthquake.

Stopped temporarily:

Earthquake:

3. In the event of a bus strike, many people will have to find other ways of getting to work.

A strike:

Related expressions:

If case of

In an emergency



In the event of an emergency, call the paramedics

1.14 In the wake of

Meaning: A recent event is still having an effect (usually a bad effect).

Meaning in your language:

Usage: In the wake of **A** (event), **B** (action, effect)

1. In the wake of the recent terrorist incidents, airport security has really been tightened.

Terrorist incidents:

Tightening of security:

2. Everyone was evacuated from the building in the wake of the bomb threat.

To evacuate a building:

Bomb threat:

3. Many jobs were lost in the wake of the economic downturn.

Economic downturn:

Related expressions:

In the aftermath of

To have no alternative but to (See 2.43)

1.15 No matter how (much / long / hard)

Meaning: Something remains the same, despite something else.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: No matter how much **A** (person, organization) **B** (action), **C** (unchanging situation)

1. No matter how hard I try, I just can't get her to agree with me.

To agree with:

2. I plan to become a millionaire no matter how long it takes.

A millionaire:

3. No matter how far I travel, mother's home cooking is still the best.

Mother's home cooking:

Related expressions:

Try as I might

Wasted effort

1.16 Not only... but (also / as well)

Meaning: Giving extra information about something

Meaning in your language:

Usage: ...not only **A** (person, group) but also **B** (person, group)

1. The recent fare increase is upsetting not only everyday commuters but also the tourists as well.

Fare increase:

To upset:

Commuters:

2. The severe tropical storm is going to disrupt not only train service but also the delivery of mail.

Tropical storm:

To disrupt:

Delivery:

3. The change in scholarship regulations affects not only new students but also previously enrolled students.

Scholarship regulations:

Previously enrolled:

Related expressions:

In addition to
What's more



Famous Saying

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

(see 2.48)

(Anonymous)

1.17 On account of

Meaning: Because of; as a result of

Meaning in your language:

Usage: On account of **A** (cause), **B** (effect)

1. The outdoor jazz concert in the park last weekend was cancelled on account of the rain.

Jazz:

Outdoor concert:

2. My head office was forced to close on account of the terrible economic conditions last year.

Forced to close:

Economic conditions:

3. On account of the traffic accident, Highway No.1 was blocked off by the police for several hours.

Traffic accident:

Blocked off:

Related expressions:

Owing to

Due to



The trip was cancelled on account of the rain

1.18 On the other hand

Meaning: Looking at something in different way; seeing another side of a problem

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (fact, situation). On the other hand, **B** (fact, situation)

1. The weather this summer has been too rainy for me. On the other hand, it's been good for the farmers.

Too rainy:

Farmers:

2. He should resign because he's a corrupt politician. On the other hand, most politicians are corrupt...

To resign:

Corrupt politician:

3. The lecture was far too long. On the other hand, the speaker did raise a lot of interesting points.

Lecture:

Speaker:

To raise a point:

Related expressions:

The other side of the coin

The flip side

1.19 Provided (that)

Meaning: Something will happen later, but only if something else happens first.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (plan for the future) provided **B** (conditions)

1. I'm going to study abroad next year, provided I can raise enough money for the trip.

To study abroad:

To raise money:

2. The music store plans to open a new branch in our city, provided that they can find a suitable building lot.

Suitable:

Building lot:

3. The governor will be released from the hospital tomorrow afternoon, provided that his condition is stable.

Released from hospital:

Condition is stable:

Related expressions:

(Just as) as long as

Fingers crossed

1.20 Speaking of

Meaning: One topic reminds someone of another topic; conversation changes to a related topic

Meaning in your language:

Usage: Speaking of **A** (topic), **B** (related topic)

1. Speaking of Beckham's change of venue, do you think it'll benefit the MLS?

Change of venue: *MLS: Major League Soccer (US)*

2. Speaking of new places to eat, I really enjoyed lunch at that new Italian restaurant uptown.

Italian restaurant: *Uptown:*

3. Speaking of government spending, I think the new road works project is totally unnecessary.

Government spending: *Road works project:*

Unnecessary:

Related expressions: Now that you mention it
Come to think of it



Speaking of money... how's your new part-time job?

1.21 Thanks to

Meaning: Some action had a good effect.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: Thanks to **A** (cause), **B** (effect)

1. Thanks to the recent revolution in technology, it is now possible to watch movies over the internet.

Revolution in technology:

2. Thanks to his kind reference letter, I was able to find a good job.

Reference letter:

3. I am approaching success now as an artist, thanks to the many years of your kind patronage.

Approach success:

Patronage:

Related expressions:

Because of

To credit...to (See 2.17)

1.22 That / Which is to say

Meaning: Summarizing something, or recommending action

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (facts). That is to say **B** (summary of the same facts)

1. Annual temperatures are rising and the polar ice caps are melting. That is to say, global warming is a serious problem.

Annual temperatures:

Polar ice caps:

Global warming:

2. He lost his last job because he's a drinker, and he hasn't worked in two years. That is to say, we shouldn't hire him.

To lose a job:

A drinker:

3. She is appearing in a new Steelberg movie, and she just won an Oscar. That is to say, she's the hottest star in Hollywood.

Appearing in a new ... movie:

To win an Oscar:

Related expressions:

In other words

To make a long story short (See 1.26)

1.23 Through

Meaning: An outcome is the result of something else.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: Through **A** (cause), **B** (result)

1. The homeless center is only kept open through gifts from concerned parties.

Homeless center:

Kept open:

Concerned parties:

2. His physical fitness goals can only be reached through strong commitment.

Physical fitness:

To reach:

Commitment:

3. It may only possible to settle the dispute between the two groups through litigation.

To settle:

A dispute:

Litigation:

Related expressions:

Thanks to (See 1.21)

By

1.24 To a certain extent... (but)

Meaning: Something is partly true, but something else is also true.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: To a certain extent **A** (fact), but **B** (another fact)

1. To a certain extent, the party was a waste of time, but at least I got to see some old friends again.

Waste of time:

Old friends:

2. The candidate said that to a certain extent, she is glad that she lost the election, because it gives her more time to be with her family.

Candidate:

To lose the election:

3. To a certain extent, it's sad that city is tearing down the old buildings, but it's also a chance to improve the neighborhood.

Tearing down:

Neighborhood:

Related expressions:

As far as it goes

True enough, (but)

1.25 To be on the safe side

Meaning: To be extremely careful

Meaning in your language:

Usage: To be on the safe side, **A** (person, group) **B** (action)

1. Even though the tests were negative, the doctor decided to remove the lump to be on the safe side.

Negative test results:

To remove a lump:

2. You should bring two flashlights when you climb Mt. Fuji, to be on the safe side.

Flashlights:

3. Bring an umbrella with you just to be on the safe side. It might rain later.

Umbrella:

Related expressions:

To play it safe

To hedge one's bets

1.26 To make a long story short

Meaning: To summarize something, or to restate it

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (facts). To make a long story short **B** (summary of the same facts)

1. I lost my wallet and forgot my car keys, and then missed the bus. To make a long story short, it's been a bad day.

To lose one's wallet:

To miss the bus:

2. He's a hit with the teenage set, and he's on television all the time. To make a long story short, he's a superstar.

A hit with:

Superstar:

3. The Minister for Finance is meeting with the bank managers now, and then he's flying to Tokyo for a press conference. To make a long story short, his schedule is completely full today.

Minister for Finance:

Press conference:

Schedule is full:

Related expressions:

The gist of the matter

That is to say (See 1.22)

1.27 Whatever it takes

Meaning: Someone plans to do something, even if it is difficult or expensive.

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (person, group) does whatever it takes to **B** (achieve some goal)

1. Since I've enrolled in graduate school, I'll do whatever it takes to get my degree.

To enroll:

To get a degree:

2. The explorers say that they will do whatever it takes to reach the top of Mt. Everest.

To reach the top:

3. She'll do whatever it takes to get that promotion, even if it means working overtime every night.

To get a promotion:

To work overtime:

Related expressions:

Dead set on

Do or die

1.28 What's more

Meaning: Making an extra point; adding more information

Meaning in your language:

Usage: **A** (fact). What's more, **B** (another fact)

1. That restaurant was terrible. The service was bad, and what's more, the prices were high.

Bad service at a restaurant:

2. The temperature was very hot yesterday. What's more, it was very humid.

Humid:

3. She's a very good business woman. She's clever and what's more, she's got good people skills.

Business woman:

Clever:

People skills:

Related expressions:

If that weren't enough

Moreover



Mini-Quiz: Connectors

Part A

1. Her first job was working waiter during the summer.

a) provided that b) as a c) in the event of d) that is to say

2. You shouldn't marry him – he's unkind and ... he's very unreliable.

a) if worse comes to worst b) be that as it may c) thanks to d) what's more

3. If you continue to study ... good times and bad, you will get your degree.

a) Speaking of b) Considering that c) through d) In a bid to

4. My boyfriend is from a poor family. ... I intend to marry him.

a) Be that as it may b) As opposed to c) On account of d) On the other hand

5. He graduated from university ... his learning disabilities.

a) as a b) what's more c) thanks to d) in spite of

6. The department store is giving away free beer ... attract customers.

a) in a bid to b) in the wake of c) be that as it may d) even so

7. She said that ... it costs, she is going to find a cure for her son's illness.

a) in a move to b) even so c) no matter how much d) to a certain extent

8.... is vitamin C good for general health ... it may also help to prevent colds.

- a)** As far as ... is concerned **b)** To a certain extent ... but **c)** Over time
d) Not only...but

9.Mark is good at baseball... David, who is good at good at soccer.

- a)** on account of **b)** as opposed to **c)** even so **d)** thanks to

10.It might rain, so ... you should bring an umbrella.

- a)** to be on the safe side **b)** if worse comes to worse **c)** in the event of
d) provided that

11....changing jobs is concerned, wait until you have more savings in the bank.

- a)** Considering that **b)** As far as **c)** In anticipation of **d)** On the other hand

12.Your health is in danger. Do ... to stay well.

- a)** instead of **b)** provided that **c)** if worse comes to worse **d)** whatever it takes

13.DEF-brand soap costs less than most. ... our quality is unsurpassed.

- a)** Even so, **b)** As a **c)** through **d)** Speaking of

14.This building method may prove invaluable ... an earthquake.

- a)** in spite of **b)** in the event of **c)** instead of **d)** through

15.Winds are still strong ... last night's typhoon.

- a)** as opposed to **b)** in response to **c)** in the wake of **d)** on the other hand

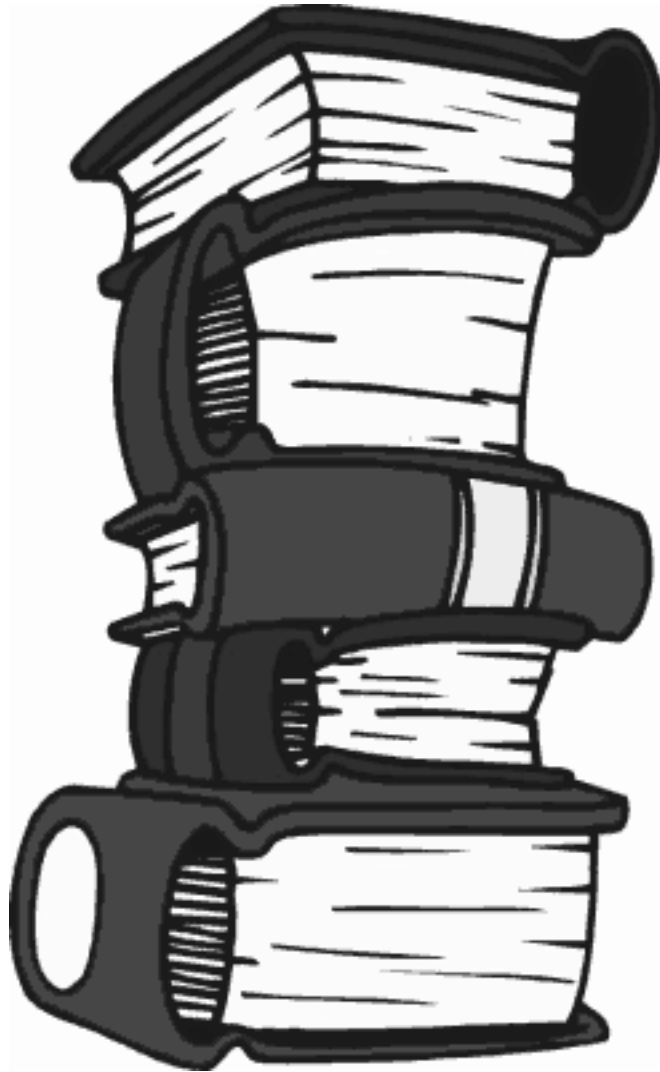
Part B

1. If worse 2. Even 3. On the other 4. In a 5. Be that 6. To make 7. That is 8. Whatever 9. To a 10. Thanks 11. Speaking 12. What's 13. Provided 14. On 15. In	a. as it may b. hand c. to d. certain extent e. comes to worst f. more g. spite of h. that i. to say j. bid to k. it takes l. a long story short m. of n. so o. account of
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Part C

E.g. may / that / as / be / it : Be that as it may

- | | | |
|--|---|-------|
| 1. worse / worst / to / if / comes | : | _____ |
| 2. event / in / of / the | : | _____ |
| 3. in / of / the / wake | : | _____ |
| 4. no / much / matter / how | : | _____ |
| 5. on / other / the / hand | : | _____ |
| 6. is / to / say / that | : | _____ |
| 7. certain / a / to / extent | : | _____ |
| 8. safe / side / to / on / be / the | : | _____ |
| 9. long / short / story / to / make / a | : | _____ |
| 10. is / far / as / ... / concerned / as | : | _____ |



I'm going to learn English, whatever it takes (see 1.27)