

Lesson Plan: Linking words of result (therefore, as a result, consequently)

Level	Intermediate (B1–B2)
Time	60–75 minutes
Skills	Grammar, writing
Focus	Therefore, as a result, consequently, so, thus, hence — formal and informal use

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use therefore, as a result, consequently, and so to link cause and result
- Understand the difference in register between these linkers
- Use correct punctuation with sentence-level linkers
- Produce formal written English using result linkers appropriately

TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

Formal linkers

- therefore: The results were inconclusive; therefore, further testing is needed.
- consequently: She missed the deadline. Consequently, the project was delayed.
- as a result: The factory was closed. As a result, 200 jobs were lost.
- thus / hence (very formal): The data was incomplete, thus rendering the analysis invalid.

Neutral/informal

- so: I was tired, so I went to bed early.
- that's why: She didn't study. That's why she failed.

Punctuation

- therefore / consequently / as a result — usually start a new sentence or after a semicolon
- so — joins clauses with a comma: 'It rained, so we stayed in.'

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up (5 min)

Task: Cause–effect chains: students say the result of a given cause.

- 'You don't sleep enough → therefore...'
- Rapid oral drill using different result words.

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Register spectrum: so (informal) to hence (very formal).

- Show correct punctuation for each.
- Emphasise: these words follow the cause — they never introduce a cause.

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Join sentences using a suitable result linker.

- 'Traffic was bad. She was late.' → 'Traffic was bad; consequently, she was late.'
- 'The price dropped. More customers bought it.' → formalize this.

4. Writing task (20 min)

Task: Short essay paragraph on cause and effect.

- Topic: 'What are the effects of social media on communication?'
- Requirement: use at least 3 different result linkers.

5. Peer review (5–10 min)

Task: Check: is the linker appropriate for the register? Is punctuation correct?

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Write a cause-and-effect essay paragraph using therefore, as a result, and consequently.
2. Rewrite 5 informal sentences using therefore or consequently to make them more formal.
3. Find 5 result linkers in a news or academic article and analyse their register.