

## MASTERING WRITING

### Presenting Advantages and Disadvantages

**A** Laura has mixed feelings about being a supertaster. Read the composition she wrote. In which paragraph does she ... ?

1. discuss the advantages of being a supertaster
2. draw conclusions about being a supertaster
3. introduce the issue of being a supertaster
4. discuss the disadvantages of being a supertaster



### The Life of a Supertaster

**a** When I was younger, my parents always wondered why I was such a picky eater. Now we know that there's a scientific explanation. I am a supertaster – a person whose sense of taste is very intense. **Although** this can be a problem at times, it can also be a lot of fun.

**b** **On the one hand**, there are lots of foods that I dislike. Fatty foods **like** ice cream and hamburgers, **for instance**, really turn my stomach. I **also** tend to stay away from vegetables **such as** broccoli and cabbage. **For this reason**, I often leave a party or a meal feeling hungry. This can lead to some embarrassing social situations **because** people don't understand why I sometimes refuse to eat. In fact, there are some people who think I'm just plain spoiled!

**c** **On the other hand**, when I find a food that I like, I enjoy it very much. Biting into a juicy apple is heaven, and a nice plate of well-prepared pasta is just delicious. I don't get tired of the foods I like **because** no two apples or pasta dishes are exactly the same to my sensitive taste buds. **Moreover**, I'll probably never get fat because I can't stand most high-calorie foods.

**d** Being a supertaster may have its downside, but **all in all**, it makes life interesting. I wouldn't want it any other way.

**B** According to Laura, what are the advantages of being a supertaster? What are the disadvantages? What conclusions does she reach?

### C Connectors

The words in color in the composition above are connectors. Connectors are used to join ideas and to show the relationship between them. Using connectors when you write will help the reader follow your ideas.

**1** Copy the chart into your notebook. Write each connector from the composition under the correct heading in your chart. Add as many connectors as you can.

Connectors of Addition	Connectors of Contrast	Connectors of Reason or Result	Connectors of Example	Connectors of Conclusion
<i>In addition, Furthermore,</i>	<i>However, Although</i>	<i>As a result,</i>	<i>For example,</i>	<i>In conclusion, To sum up,</i>

**2** Choose the correct connector to complete each sentence.

1. Chocolate is very fattening. **Moreover** / **However**, it's delicious!
2. Some of the food wasn't very good. **For instance** / **To sum up**, I couldn't eat the potato salad.
3. We love cooking at home. **For this reason** / **Furthermore**, we rarely eat out.
4. The food was delightful and the service was excellent. **All in all** / **For example**, we enjoyed eating at Gino's.
5. I'm a vegetarian **although** / **because** I think it's wrong to eat animals.
6. You should eat less. **As a result** / **In addition**, you should get more exercise.

### Master TASK

Write a composition presenting advantages and disadvantages.

#### Talk About It

In groups, choose two of the topics below. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each. Share your ideas with the class.

- Family meals
- Eating in a restaurant / at home
- Being a vegetarian
- Fast food

#### Do It

**1** Choose one of the topics above (or any other issue you wish) and write a composition presenting both sides.

- Begin by introducing the issue.
- Continue by discussing the advantages and then the disadvantages, or the other way around.
- Add a conclusion and sum up.
- Use connectors to show the relationship between ideas.
- Use relative clauses to add details.

Read the checklist before you begin.

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#### Checklist

1. My composition is clear and well organized.
2. I presented at least two advantages and disadvantages.
3. I used connectors to help the reader follow my ideas.
4. I used relative clauses to add details.
5. I used rich vocabulary.
6. I checked my grammar, spelling and punctuation.
7. I got feedback from a classmate.
8. I revised and corrected my work.
9. My composition is neat and esthetic.

**2** Check your work and make corrections. Then exchange compositions with a classmate and suggest ways to improve each other's work.

**3** Make any necessary corrections and write the final version of your composition.