

5.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Understand linkers for reason and result ■ Understand and use suffixes

Reading understanding linkers for reason and result

- 1 Read the quotation and answer the questions.

'The best things in life aren't things.'

Art Buchwald, American journalist

- 1 What do you think the quotation means?
- 2 What, for you, are the best things in life?

- 2a Read the information in the Unlock the code box about linkers for reason and result.



UNLOCK THE CODE

linkers for reason and result

- Words like *but*, *because* and *so* are 'linkers' or 'linking words'. It's important to understand them because they help you predict what kind of information comes next in a text.
- *As*, *because* and *since* tell us the reason for something.
He didn't buy the dishwasher, as his kitchen was too small.
- *So*, *therefore*, *as a result* and *for this reason* tell us the result of something.
He had too many things. So his house was untidy.

- b Choose the two correct linkers in each sentence.

- 1 Marc lives in a tiny flat. *Therefore*, / *As* / *So* he can't have too many possessions.
- 2 I have an e-reader *since* / *as* / *so* books take up too much space.
- 3 I can't close my suitcase *because* / *as a result* / *since* I packed too much stuff into it.
- 4 We're moving to a smaller house. *Because* / *For this reason*, / *As a result*, we need to get rid of some furniture.

- c In the following sentences circle the linker, underline the reason(s) and put a dotted line under the result.

Reason

Result

He spent all his money on clothes. As a result he couldn't afford a new laptop.

- 1 Her sofa was getting old so she bought a new one.
- 2 I hardly ever wore the jacket and I needed some money. Therefore, I sold it.
- 3 We paid in cash because they didn't accept cards.

- 3a Read the article about living without many possessions. Find and circle eight linkers for reason or result. Underline the reason and result.



Living with less

We all need possessions. They make our lives happier and more comfortable. Or do they? Well, not always. Sometimes having too many things can be stressful. Possessions can take up a lot of space and if they are expensive, we might worry about security. For this reason, more and more people are choosing a 'minimalist lifestyle', without many possessions. Each week we post a minimalist's story on this site. Read Rachel's story ...

Rachel's story

'Two years ago our flat was full of stuff. My husband and I couldn't find anything. We couldn't close the cupboards or drawers. It was awful. So we went minimalist: we sold or gave away the things which we hardly ever used. As a result, our book collection went from 300 down to six, we gave away kitchen equipment, clothes (including my wedding dress) and I even sold on eBay the Olympic torch that I ran with in the 2010 Winter Olympics Torch Relay.

Getting rid of stuff was hard. It took time, effort and difficult decisions. But I realized quickly that I can easily live without things. And it's good to know our stuff is now with people who need it. Our home's easy to clean. Everything's easy to find. Choosing clothes in the morning is easy as my wardrobe is the size of a suitcase.

Modern digital technology has helped. We gave away our CDs and now keep our music on the computer. Our photos fit into three albums. We keep the rest online. I've changed my shopping habits too. Now, when I buy something I ask myself, "Do I need this?" As a result, I've saved lots of money.

Some friends think our new lifestyle's wonderful. Others worry because they think our life isn't enjoyable any more. But we have more time now for important things like family and travelling. Therefore, we're happier than before. I still have nice things, but just one of everything. I love my possessions more, since there aren't too many of them. But most importantly, I use everything I have.'

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- b** Read the story again and answer the questions.
- Why did Rachel and her husband decide to 'go minimalist'?
 - Why did they get rid of nearly all of their books?
 - How did she save a lot of money?
 - Why are some of her friends worried about them?
 - Why are she and her husband happier now than before they went minimalist?
 - Why does she love her possessions more than she did before?
- 4** What do you think about Rachel's decision to ...?
- keep most of her photos online
 - get rid of her books
 - sell her wedding dress
 - sell the Olympic torch

- 7a 5.4**))) Listen to a couple discussing whether to keep the three objects in the photos. Tick (✓) the one(s) they keep.



Vocabulary & Listening suffixes

- 5a** Read the information in the Vocabulary focus box about suffixes.

VOCABULARY FOCUS suffixes

A suffix is a letter or group of letters at the end of a word which makes a new word.

enjoy (verb) → **enjoyable** (adjective)
→ **enjoyment** (noun)

Common noun suffixes	Common adjective suffixes
-ment, e.g. arrangement	-ful, e.g. beautiful
-ion, e.g. information	-able, e.g. suitable
-er, e.g. scooter	-al, e.g. normal

- b** Complete the table then check your answers with the article.

Verb	Noun	Noun/Verb	Adjective
possess	1	stress	5
decide	2	comfort	6
compute	3	enjoy	7
equip	4	digit	8

- 6** Write the nouns and adjectives from exercise 5b in the table. Can you add any more words?

-ment	-ion	-er	-ful	-al	-able

- b** Which of the objects a–c do these phrases describe?
- it isn't **suitable** for work
 - we'll get a **buyer** for it
 - it's not very **useful**
 - it's in very good **condition**
 - it's **essential**
 - it's quite **fashionable**
 - it'll be a **disappointment** (to her if we throw it away)

- c 5.4**))) Listen again and check your answers.

- d** Write the words in **bold** above into the table in exercise 6.

- 8a** Complete the questions with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- Have you bought anything recently which was a _____ (disappoint)?
- Is it very important to you to be _____ (fashion)? Why/Why not?
- Can you name two things which are not _____ (suit) for young children to buy?
- Do you think _____ (possess) can make you feel happy?
- Do you make quick _____ (decide) when you shop for clothes?

- b** Work with a partner and ask and answer the questions.