

Develop your listening

► **Goal:** understand an interview

► **Focus:** understanding linkers



1 Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you think it's a good idea to take time off between finishing university and starting work? Why/Why not?
- 2 What is the difference between a 'gap year' and a 'career break'?
- 3 Is it usual for people to take gap years or career breaks in your country?
- 4 When do you think is a good time in life to take a gap year or career break?
- 5 What type of things might you do on a gap year or career break?

2 2.7 Listen to two people being interviewed and answer the questions.

- 1 What are they describing?
- 2 What did they do?

3 Read the Focus box. How can linkers help when listening?

Understanding linkers

Linkers can help us predict what's coming next when we're listening. Look at the beginning of the sentence below:

*I liked my gap year, **but/although/however** ...*

We can guess from the linkers that the speaker will now talk about something negative, perhaps the problems they had during their gap year.

Look at how the sentence changes if we change the linker:

*I liked my gap year **and** ...*

Now we might guess that the speaker will talk about the good times they had during their gap year or how it helped them.

Sometimes we will hear a linker that tells us about the result of an action:

*I was very tired when I got off the plane, **so** ...*

In this case, we can guess that the speaker will tell us about the result, perhaps that they went straight to bed when they got home.

Because tells us that we're going to hear the reason for something:

*I didn't stay for a full year **because** ...*

We might guess that this person became ill or got homesick.

4 Look at the sentences. How do you think they might finish?

- 1 I didn't take a career break, because ...
- 2 I was pretty tired, so ...
- 3 We enjoyed the food and ...
- 4 The first day we had lovely weather. However, ...
- 5 The service in the restaurant was generally good, but ...
- 6 We thought the film was good, although ...
- 7 We didn't visit them again because ...
- 8 The price of flights was really high, so ...
- 9 They gave flowers to Julia, but ...
- 10 They took his wallet and ...

5 a 2.8 Listen and choose the linker that you hear.

- 1 and/but/so
- 2 and/however/because
- 3 however/so/because
- 4 and/because/so

b Listen again. Work in pairs and predict how the speaker might finish the sentence.

c 2.9 Listen and check. Were any of your ideas correct?

6 2.7 Listen to the interview again and answer the questions. Use the linkers you hear to help you.

- 1 Why did Rob decide to have a gap year?
- 2 Rob found Mexico City quite busy. What did he decide to do?
- 3 Why did Rob leave the job that he got?
- 4 What else did Rob like about Brazil apart from the beaches?
- 5 Was Sally's gap year similar to Rob's?
- 6 Why did she decide to work during her gap year?
- 7 What didn't she like about her job?
- 8 Did they both enjoy their gap years?

7 Work in pairs and discuss which kind of gap year you would choose. Say why.

