

Unit 11: Seeing is believing

Discourse markers

1. **Discourse markers** are words and phrases used in speaking and writing to 'signpost' discourse.
2. **Discourse markers** do this by showing turns, joining ideas together, showing attitude, and generally controlling communication. In speech, words like 'actually', 'so', 'OK', 'right?' and 'anyway' all function as discourse markers as they help the speaker to manage the conversation and mark when it changes.
3. However, **discourse markers** are an important feature of both spoken & written English. The skilful use of discourse markers often indicates a higher level of fluency in both spoken and written English

In order to join two ideas in one sentence, we would like to use some connectors to link the idea of the second sentence to the idea in the first sentence.

Linking Words	Function	Example
1. However	used for making contrasts	Engineering is an interesting career on the other hand. However , you have to be good at maths. Science can explain a lot of things. On the other hand , there are many things we don't understand.
2. as a result	meaning "because of this"	It was raining and all the buses were full. As a result , we were late for the match.
3. for example/ 4. for instance.	used for giving examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Some things are much better than in the past. For example, education and health care have improved . ◇ To do some jobs you have to study for a long time. For instance, doctors do five years at university
5. Actually/ in fact	used for modifying or contradicting ideas	I didn't go to the film because I wasn't feeling well. Actually , I had a temperature of 39°. He said he was ill. In fact , he just wanted to stay at home.
6. otherwise	used for showing possible consequences of something not happening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Please be careful. Otherwise, you might have an accident. ◇ You should go to bed. Otherwise, you'll be tired tomorrow.
7. then /next/ finally	used for showing sequence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ I got home at six and had tea. Then I did my homework. ◇ Switch on the computer. Next, enter your log-in information.
8. also /as well / too /in addition/	used for adding new information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ We did a lot of sightseeing in London. ◇ We also went shopping. / We went shopping apart from that as well/too. ◇ She was very tired. She was also very hungry / She was hungry as well / too. ◇ He's very clever. In addition / Apart from that he is good at sport.

Example

Howard Hughes died a very rich man, ~~but~~ he did not have a happy life.

Howard Hughes died a very rich man. **However**, he did not have a happy life. NOT

When do we use each connector?

A) Discourse Markers Part I

Ok, we will now look at the most used transitional words. Yes, it's quite a long list – don't worry, just understand when we use each one and practice making sentences with them.

1. **Accordingly** – in a proper or appropriate way : in a way that suits the facts, needs, or requirements of a situation.

Example: "Susan is an intern and she is paid accordingly"

2. **Besides** – synonym of also; in addition to what has already been said.

Example: "I really want to go to the party, and besides, it's close to my house"

3. **Consequently** – happening as a result of a particular action or set of conditions.

Example: "The price of real estate has gone up. Consequently people have to move outside the city"

4. **Finally** – at the end of a period of time.

Example: "After years of arguing, Tim and Tina finally got divorced"

5. **Furthermore** – in addition to what has been said.

Example: "Bruno always makes amazing art. Furthermore, he's such a nice man!"

6. **Hence** – for this reason.

Example: "The company lost a lot of money. Hence, the manager was asked to resign"

7. **However**- used when you are saying something that is different from or contrasts with a previous statement.

Example: "Mary should stay at home and study. However, she decided to go camping"

8. **In fact** – in truth — used to stress that a statement is true although it may be surprising or unlikely.

Example: "He looks young, but in fact, he's in his 40's"

9. **Instead** – used to say that one thing is done or that one thing or person is chosen when another is not chosen, cannot be done, etc.

Example: "I don't have any coffee, would you mind tea instead?"

10. **Likewise** – in the same way.

Example: "Everyone in class studies 3 hours a day, we should do likewise"

11. Meanwhile – at or during the same time : in the meantime.

Example: “Please make something to eat. Meanwhile, I’ll clean”

12. Moreover – in addition to what has been said. This word is quite formal.

Example: “I’d love to come over for coffee. Moreover, I’ll bring a cake!”

13. Namely – used when giving exact information about something you have already mentioned.

Example: “Malaria can be prevented, namely by taking malaria tablets and using a mosquito net”

14. Nevertheless – in spite of what has just been said.

Example: “Joy doesn’t like avocados, nevertheless she ate them for her husband”

15. Nonetheless – in spite of what has just been said.

Example: “We’re always arguing, she’s my best friend nonetheless”

16. Otherwise – in a different way or manner.

Example: “After the fire, all the books had been burnt or otherwise destroyed”

17. Similarly – in a similar way : in almost the same way.

Example: “My sister’s and my house are decorated similarly: we love minimalism”

18. Thereafter – after that.

Example: “Thereafter, the companies merged together”

19. Therefore – for that reason : because of that.

Example: “The mobile phone is light to carry, therefore it’s very convenient”

20. Thus – in this way or manner : like this. This word is also very formal.

Example: “The detergent is highly concentrated, thus you will have to dilute it”

B) Discourse Markers Part II

1. Anyway, anyhow, at any rate, at least

These expressions can mean ‘what was said before doesn’t matter’.

Example:

- i. I don’t know what time I will arrive. **Anyway / anyhow / at any rate** I will be there before 10 o’ clock.
- ii. What a horrible experience! **Anyway / anyhow / at any rate** we are safe, that is the main thing.

2. **By the way, Incidentally, all right, now, OK**

These expressions are used to mark a change of subject.

Example:

- i. Alice wants to discuss a few things with you. **By the way / incidentally** she has quit her job.

3. **Firstly, secondly, thirdly**

These expressions are used to show the structure of what we are doing.

Example:

- i. **First(ly)** we need to rent an apartment. **Second(ly)**, we need to find work. And **third(ly)**...
*****Note that **firstly, secondly, lastly** etc., are more formal than **first, second, last** etc., and are more common in British than American English.***

4. **Moreover, what is more, in addition, furthermore, besides, on top of that**

- These expressions are used to give additional information.

Example:

- i. They are desperately short of food. **In addition**, they need doctors and medicines.
- ii. Laptops are getting cheaper all the time. **Furthermore** they are becoming more powerful.
- iii.

5. **On the whole, in general, broadly speaking, by and large, to a great extent**

- These expressions are used to introduce generalizations.

- i. **On the whole**, we had a nice time.
- ii. **In general**, few people are satisfied with their life.
- iii. **In most cases**, people will be nice to you if you are nice to them.

6. **I think, I feel, I reckon, I guess, in my opinion/view etc.**

- These expressions are used to make opinions sound less dogmatic.

- Note that **I think, I feel and I reckon** are informal. **I guess** is used only in American English. The expressions **in my opinion/view** are formal.

- i. **I think** you should give it another try.
- ii. **I feel** you are making a mistake.
- iii. **In my opinion** it would be better to discuss our concerns with them.

Lists of Discourse Markers

Furthering Arguments	Counter Arguments	Sequencing Arguments	Concluding Arguments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Many people believe... ➤ In addition to this... ➤ Similarly... ➤ Equally... ➤ Likewise... ➤ Also... ➤ As well as (<i>this</i>)... ➤ Moreover... ➤ What's more... ➤ Further more... ➤ In the same way... ➤ This can also be (<i>seen to be</i>) true in... ➤ Just as... ➤ In the same way... ➤ For example... ➤ For instance... ➤ By the same token... ➤ Likewise... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Others might argue... ➤ Conversely... ➤ However... ➤ Although... ➤ On the other hand... ➤ Whereas... ➤ When measured against... ➤ Contrasting with... ➤ On the contrary... ➤ Nevertheless... ➤ On the other hand... ➤ In comparison... ➤ The opposite effect is created in... ➤ Nonetheless... ➤ Yet... ➤ Corresponding with this... ➤ Correspondingly... ➤ On the contrary... ➤ In opposition to this... ➤ In spite of this... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To begin with... ➤ In the first place... ➤ First and foremost... ➤ Primarily... ➤ Firstly... ➤ Secondly... ➤ Thirdly... ➤ Lastly... ➤ Finally... ➤ After this it can be seen.... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Naturally... ➤ Of course... ➤ Admittedly... ➤ Certainly... ➤ In conclusion... ➤ Finally... ➤ Consequently... ➤ When all (<i>of these</i>) factors are taken in to account... ➤ Subsequently... ➤ Therefore... ➤ Thus... ➤ We can conclude that... ➤ Finally, it can be seen...

Emphasis	Illustration/ Exemplification	Contrast	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Above all... ➤ Essentially... ➤ Clearly... ➤ Most of all... ➤ Especially.... ➤ Primarily.... ➤ Particularly... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In large... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For example... ➤ For instance... ➤ Specifically... ➤ With regards to... ➤ To illustrate... ➤ Such as... ➤ In the words of (<i>expert</i>)... ➤ According to (<i>expert</i>)... ➤ As (<i>expert</i>) says.... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ But... ➤ Despite... ➤ Yet... ➤ However... ➤ Alternatively... ➤ Still... ➤ Although... ➤ Unless... ➤ Otherwise... ➤ By contrast... ➤ Notwithstanding... ➤ Rather... ➤ Contrarily.... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Which is evident in/ because... ➤ ...can be seen to be true. ➤ We can see that... ➤ This is obvious... ➤ Obviously...

Exercise

Fill in the gaps with the adverbial expressions provided in the box below. Write down your answer in the box provided.

actually / after all / ~~as far as~~ / at least / but also / furthermore / on the other hand / otherwise / regarding / that is to say / whereas

For years there has been an ongoing debate 1. _____ the use of animals in research and testing. 2. _____ many people believe testing on animals is not only unethical 3. _____ cruel and inhumane, others are convinced that animal testing is a necessary evil; 4. _____ an unavoidable practice. I personally believe that animal testing is unethical and should be banned or 5. _____ restricted, but at the same time I am aware that without this practice the lives of many people would be much worse than they are at present. I am certainly aware that there are many arguments in favour of experimenting with animals; 6. _____, 90% of scientists support the idea, and there must be reasons for that. Many life-saving cures and treatments wouldn't have been possible without it. 7. _____, there is legislation in place to ensure the wellbeing of the animals which are used in tests, and most of these animals are 8. _____ treated more humanely than the animals we use for consumption, which represent the vast majority. 9. _____, we should ask ourselves if we have the right to dictate the destiny of any living creature. It has been proved that animals have feelings and are as susceptible of pain and suffering as humans. Therefore, it seems cruel to purposely make them experience such afflictions. The main difference between animals and humans is that the former doesn't seem to have a conscience or the ability to feel compassion. As far as I am concerned, it is precisely

compassion, the characteristic that makes humans unique and "superior", what we should use when dealing with animals; 10. _____, we are nothing else than animals doing tests on other animals.