

Grammar | discourse markers

1. Look at the underlined phrases 1-5 in the Grammar box. Write them in the table.

Grammar box

Discourse markers are words/expression which help us to organise what we want to say or write. They also show our attitude to the subject.

- ✓ ... as I was saying, it really does look like a photo ...
- ✓ ... the expression on her face is kind of intense ...
- ✓ it sort of looks like a photo ...
- ✓ to be honest, it's not really my taste ...
- ✓ to tell you the truth, I still wouldn't want it hanging on my bedroom wall.



Focusing on the main topic or returning to a previous line of discussion	Introducing an opinion or criticism
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.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
Softening an opinion or criticism	Making additional (often contrasting) points
.....	
.....	
.....	

2. Add the phrases from the box below to the table in the Grammar box.

anyway, what I was going to say was more or less frankly mind you
as a matter of fact as far as ... is concerned in fact as for as regards/regarding

3. Complete the statements below with one word.

- ✓ | | be honest, Picasso's work isn't my cup of tea.
- ✓ Caravaggio had a very difficult life. Anyway, | | I was going to say was he is my favourite artist.
- ✓ I love those old medieval paintings. To tell you | | truth, I don't like modern art at all.
- ✓ Nek Chand must be one of the world's greatest artists. | | any rate, he's the best in India.
- ✓ I think the Mona Lisa is overrate. As | | matter of fact, I don't like it's Leonardo's best painting.
- ✓ As far as modern sculpture is | |, Henry Moore is undoubtedly the greatest.
- ✓ Georgia O'Keefe's paintings of flowers are kind | | interesting. I love the colours she uses.
- ✓ | | I was saying, Lee Krasner's art was overshadowed by that of her husband, Jackson Pollock.

4. Complete the statements below with one word.

- 1 A: | |, I don't like Impressionism much.
B: Neither do I. | |, I think it's been overexposed.

- 2 A: Pollock's technique of dripping paint onto canvas was | | strange.
B: I agree. | | his work did revolutionise modern art.
- 3 A: I love performance art. | |, David Blaine's my hero.
B: David Blaine? The magician? | |, I think he's crazy!
- 4 A: I love Spanish art. | | Picasso, I think he was the greatest of all time.
B: Well, yes, he | | invented modern art.
- 5 A: | | photography, Cindy Sherman is currently the most famous artist.
B: Really? | |, I've never heard of her.

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Source: 1) www.wikipedia.org 2) <https://www.english-4u.de/grammar1.htm>