

DISCOURSE MARKERS

Discourse markers are words and phrases used in speaking and writing to 'signpost' discourse. 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. 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.

DISCOURSE MARKERS			
FURTHERING ARGUMENTS	COUNTER ARGUMENTS	SEQUENCING ARGUMENTS	CONCLUDING ARGUMENTS
Many people believe...	Others might argue...	To begin with...	Naturally...
In addition to this...	Conversely...	In the first place...	Of course...
Similarly...	However...	First and foremost...	Admittedly...
Equally...	Although...	Primarily...	Certainly...
Likewise...	On the other hand...	Firstly...	In conclusion...
Also...	Whereas...	Secondly...	Finally...
As well as (<i>this</i>)...	When measured against...	Thirdly...	Consequently...
Moreover...	Contrasting with...	Lastly...	When all (<i>of these</i>) factors are taken in to account...
What's more...	On the contrary...	Finally...	Subsequently...
Further more...	Nevertheless...	After this it can be seen....	Therefore...
In the same way...	On the other hand...		Thus...
This can also be (<i>seen to be</i>) true in...	In comparison...		We can conclude that...
Just as...	The opposite effect is created in...		Finally, it can be seen...
In the same way...	Nonetheless...		
For example...	Yet...		
For instance...	Corresponding with this...		
By the same token...	Correspondingly...		
Likewise...	On the contrary...		
	In opposition to this...		
	In spite of this...		

EMPHASIS	ILLUSTRATION/EXEMPLIFICATION	CONTRAST	EVIDENCE
Above all... Essentially... Clearly... Most of all... Especially... Primarily... Particularly... In large...	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...	But... Despite... Yet... However... Alternatively... Still... Although... Unless... Otherwise... By contrast... Notwithstanding... Rather... Contrarily...	Which is evident in/ because... ...can be seen to be true. We can see that... This is obvious... Obviously...

Complete the following sentences using an appropriate discourse marker.

1. I fired at the leopard, he shook my arm.

- a) as
- b) since
- c) because
- d) for

2. Arranged marriages are unusual in the West. In the Middle East,, they are common.

- a) but
- b) on the other hand
- c) similarly
- d) in spite of this

3. The job wasn't very interesting., the money was OK.

- a) While
- b) Mind you
- c) In addition
- d) Due to this

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4. The train was late. I managed to reach in time.

- a) In spite of this
- b) Additionally
- c) Similarly
- d) Due to this

5. The British may have done some good in India. colonialism is basically bad.

- a) Even so
- b) Even as
- c) Similarly
- d) In the same way

6. we are satisfied with life.

- a) In general
- b) As for
- c) As far as
- d) Apart from

7. The flood victims are short of food. they urgently need medical supplies.

- a) Similarly
- b) In addition
- c) Any how
- d) For instance

Answers

1. As I fired at the tiger, he shook my arm.

2. Arranged marriages are unusual in the West. In the Middle East, on the other hand, they are very common.

3. The job wasn't very interesting. Mind you, the money was OK.

4. The train was late. In spite of this I managed to reach on time.

5. The British may have done some good in India. Even so colonialism is basically bad.

6. In general we are satisfied with life.

7. The flood victims are short of food. In addition, they urgently need medical supplies.

Complete the following sentences using an appropriate discourse marker.

1. nurses are overworked and underpaid.
 - a) In particular
 - b) Broadly speaking
 - c) Especially
 - d) Except for

2. I don't believe in ghosts. I haven't seen one yet.
 - a) I think
 - b) At least
 - c) In particular
 - d) In other words

3. I think he should be acquitted. he is too young to know the difference between right and wrong.
 - a) After all
 - b) At least
 - c) Well
 - d) Honestly

4. The man was sleeping soundly on the river bank. a crocodile was creeping closer.
 - a) Despite this
 - b) Meanwhile
 - c) As a result
 - d) By contrast

5. The child didn't get any medical attention. -----, she died soon after.
 - a) Despite this
 - b) As a result
 - c) In this case
 - d) In spite of that

6. He has been warned before., he shouldn't have repeated this.
 - a) In this case
 - b) In spite of this
 - c) Instead

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Answers

1. Broadly speaking nurses are overworked and underpaid.
2. I don't believe in ghosts. At least I haven't seen one yet.
3. I think he should be acquitted. After all he is too young to know the difference between right and wrong.
4. The man was sleeping soundly on the river bank. Meanwhile a crocodile was creeping closer.
5. The child didn't get any medical attention. As a result, she died soon after.
6. He has been warned before. In this case, he shouldn't have repeated this.