

# **DISCOURSE MARKERS**

## **PART 1**

### **What are discourse markers?**

Discourse markers are words and phrases used in speaking and writing to 'signpost' discourse (the communication of ideas).

They 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 and written English and skillful use of them often indicates a higher level of fluency.**

Below are a few examples of discourse markers that could be used either in support of an idea or to argue against it, but there are many more!

**Discourse markers used to further arguments:**

Many people believe ...

Similarly ...

Equally ...

Likewise ...

Also ...

As well as this ...

Moreover ...

What's more ...

In the same way ...

Just as ...

For example ...

For instance ...

**Discourse markers used to counter arguments:**

Others might argue ...

Conversely ...

However ...

Although ...

On the other hand ...

Whereas ...

When measured against ...

Contrasting with ...

On the contrary ...

Nevertheless ...

On the other hand ...

Yet ...