



Discourse Markers: Sequencing, Exemplification & Summarising Markers

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- There are several reasons why I disagree. ____, the cost is far too high.
a) Firstly
b) In conclusion
c) For instance
d) Overall
- Many countries celebrate spring festivals — ____, Holi in India and Songkran in Thailand.
a) for example
b) finally
c) in other words
d) to sum up
- ____, I believe that the advantages of remote work clearly outweigh the disadvantages.
a) To begin with
b) For instance
c) In conclusion
d) Secondly
- The exam covers four language skills, ____ reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
a) such as
b) namely
c) furthermore
d) in summary
- ____, let's consider the environmental impact. Secondly, we need to look at the cost.
a) For example
b) First of all
c) All in all
d) In other words
- Some students find grammar boring. I, ____, think it can be fascinating.
a) for instance
b) to sum up
c) namely
d) on the other hand
- The city has excellent public transport, ____ buses, trams, and an underground system.
a) such as
b) in conclusion
c) therefore
d) to begin with
- ____, the results show that regular exercise improves both physical and mental health.
a) Secondly
b) For example
c) Next
d) Overall
- First, preheat the oven to 180°C. ____, mix the flour and sugar in a large bowl.
a) In conclusion
b) For instance
c) Next
d) All in all
- There are many ways to reduce stress — ____, going for a walk, listening to music, or meditating.
a) for instance
b) firstly
c) to sum up
d) namely
- ____, we looked at the causes of climate change. Now let's examine the possible solutions.
a) Previously
b) For example
c) In summary
d) Finally

12. The festival features live music and dance performances. It also includes food stalls from around the world. ____, it is a celebration of cultural diversity.
- a) Secondly
b) In other words
c) Such as
d) Next
13. ____, add the eggs and mix well. Finally, pour the batter into the tin and bake for 30 minutes.
- a) In conclusion
b) For example
c) Overall
d) Then
14. Several factors contribute to air pollution, ____ vehicle emissions, factory waste, and burning fossil fuels.
- a) in conclusion
b) consequently
c) such as
d) to begin with
15. ____, despite some drawbacks, the new policy has been a success.
- a) Firstly
b) All in all
c) For instance
d) Next
16. The report identified three key problems, ____ a lack of funding, poor communication, and staff shortages.
- a) namely
b) for example
c) in summary
d) moreover
17. Firstly, the plan is too expensive. ____, it would take too long to implement.
- a) In conclusion
b) For instance
c) To sum up
d) Secondly
18. The town has a lot to offer visitors. ____, the old castle attracts thousands of tourists every year.
- a) To sum up
b) Therefore
c) For example
d) Finally
19. We discussed the budget, the timeline, and the staffing plan. ____, I think we have covered all the key points.
- a) Firstly
b) To sum up
c) For instance
d) Next
20. The government must invest more in renewable energy. ____, it should encourage companies to reduce carbon emissions.
- a) In conclusion
b) In addition
c) Namely
d) For instance



Answers

1. a) Firstly
2. a) for example
3. c) In conclusion
4. b) namely
5. b) First of all
6. d) on the other hand
7. a) such as
8. d) Overall
9. c) Next
10. a) for instance
11. a) Previously
12. b) In other words
13. d) Then
14. c) such as
15. b) All in all
16. a) namely
17. d) Secondly
18. c) For example
19. b) To sum up
20. b) In addition



Explanations

1. “Firstly” (a)

'Firstly' introduces the first point in a list of reasons. 'In conclusion' and 'Overall' are for ending a discussion, not beginning one. 'For instance' introduces an example, not a first argument.

2. “for example” (a)

'For example' introduces specific illustrations of 'spring festivals'. 'To sum up' would end a discussion. 'Finally' would suggest these are the last in a sequence. 'In other words' rephrases rather than illustrates.

3. “In conclusion” (c)

'In conclusion' signals the final summary statement of an argument. 'To begin with' starts a discussion. 'Secondly' introduces a second point. 'For instance' introduces an example.

4. “namely” (b)

'Namely' introduces a complete, exhaustive list — all four skills are named. 'Such as' introduces partial examples (implying there could be more). Since the sentence says 'four skills' and then lists exactly four, 'namely' is the precise choice.

5. “First of all” (b)

'First of all' introduces the first point in a structured argument, naturally followed by 'Secondly'. 'All in all' is a summarising marker. 'For example' introduces an illustration. 'In other words' rephrases.

6. “on the other hand” (d)

'On the other hand' introduces a contrasting viewpoint — the speaker's opinion versus what some students think. 'For instance' would introduce an example. 'To sum up' would conclude a discussion. 'Namely' would specify exactly what grammar is.

7. “such as” (a)

'Such as' introduces examples of public transport types. Unlike 'namely', 'such as' implies this may not be a complete list. 'In conclusion' summarises. 'Therefore' shows result. 'To begin with' starts a sequence.

8. “Overall” (d)

'Overall' introduces a general conclusion based on evidence. 'Secondly' and 'Next' introduce middle points in a sequence. 'For example' introduces a specific illustration, not a general conclusion.

9. “Next” (c)

'Next' signals the following step in a sequence of instructions. 'In conclusion' and 'All in all' are for ending a discussion. 'For instance' introduces an example.

10. “for instance” (a)

'For instance' introduces examples of stress-reduction methods. 'Namely' would imply this is the complete list, but the sentence says 'many ways' and only gives three. 'Firstly' starts a numbered sequence. 'To sum up' concludes.

11. “Previously” (a)

'Previously' refers back to an earlier part of the discussion before moving to a new topic. 'Finally' would signal the last point. 'In summary' would wrap up the discussion. 'For example' introduces illustrations.

12. “In other words” (b)

'In other words' reformulates or rephrases the previous information — the festival being about cultural diversity is a simpler way of expressing what was described. 'Secondly' and 'Next' continue a sequence. 'Such as' introduces examples.

13. “Then” (d)

'Then' signals the next step in a sequence of instructions, fitting between an earlier step and 'Finally'. 'In conclusion' and 'Overall' summarise arguments, not cooking steps. 'For example' introduces illustrations.

14. “such as” (c)

'Such as' introduces examples of factors that cause air pollution. The list is illustrative, not exhaustive (there are other factors too). 'In conclusion' summarises. 'Consequently' shows result. 'To begin with' starts a sequence.

15. “All in all” (b)

'All in all' means 'considering everything' — it introduces a balanced final judgement. 'Firstly' begins a new discussion. 'For instance' gives an example. 'Next' continues a sequence.

16. “namely” (a)

'Namely' introduces the exact list of the three problems mentioned. Since the number 'three' is specified and all three are given, 'namely' (= specifically, that is) is more precise than 'for example', which would suggest an incomplete list.

17. “Secondly” (d)

'Secondly' naturally follows 'Firstly' to introduce the second point in a structured argument. 'In conclusion' and 'To sum up' would end the discussion too early. 'For instance' introduces an example, not a second argument.

18. “For example” (c)

'For example' introduces the castle as a specific illustration of what the town offers. 'Therefore' would imply the castle is a result of the town having a lot to offer. 'To sum up' and 'Finally' signal endings.

19. “To sum up” (b)

'To sum up' signals a conclusion after listing several topics — the speaker is wrapping up the meeting. 'Firstly' would start a new list. 'For instance' gives an example. 'Next' continues a sequence.

20. “In addition” (b)

'In addition' adds a second recommendation alongside the first. 'In conclusion' would end the discussion. 'For instance' would give an example of investment. 'Namely' would specify what 'renewable energy' means.