



## Discourse Markers: Mixed Discourse Markers & Register Awareness

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The experiment was repeated three times. \_\_\_\_, the results were consistent.  
a) For example  
b) In each case  
c) In other words  
d) On the whole
- Which linking word is most appropriate in a formal academic essay? 'The data supports our hypothesis. \_\_\_\_, further research is needed.'  
a) But  
b) Nevertheless  
c) Anyway  
d) Still
- \_\_\_\_, the suspect was seen near the crime scene at 9 p.m.  
a) Obviously  
b) Firstly  
c) Furthermore  
d) Apparently
- The government increased taxes. \_\_\_\_, it cut spending on public services.  
a) At the same time  
b) As a result  
c) In conclusion  
d) That is to say
- The restaurant has excellent food. \_\_\_\_, the prices are very reasonable.  
a) Hence  
b) In other words  
c) What's more  
d) To put it simply
- This theory is, \_\_\_\_, widely accepted by experts in the field.  
a) for instance  
b) in case  
c) as a result  
d) on the whole
- Which is the best informal alternative? 'The train was cancelled. \_\_\_\_, we took a bus instead.'  
a) Consequently  
b) Thus  
c) So  
d) Accordingly
- The new drug has shown promising results. \_\_\_\_, it has fewer side effects than existing treatments.  
a) In short  
b) Moreover  
c) Therefore  
d) That is
- \_\_\_\_, no one could have predicted the outcome of the election.  
a) Clearly  
b) Namely  
c) Such as  
d) Secondly
- The company provides training in several areas, \_\_\_\_ leadership, communication, and project management.  
a) in conclusion  
b) as a result  
c) namely  
d) subsequently





## Answers

1. b) In each case
2. b) Nevertheless
3. d) Apparently
4. a) At the same time
5. c) What's more
6. d) on the whole
7. c) So
8. b) Moreover
9. a) Clearly
10. c) namely
11. d) Unfortunately
12. a) Nonetheless
13. c) Apart from
14. d) More specifically
15. c) Even so
16. a) in particular
17. c) At the same time
18. a) Surprisingly
19. d) in essence
20. b) To be specific



# Explanations

## 1. “In each case” (b)

'In each case' means 'every time the experiment was done' — it refers back to the three repetitions. 'For example' would introduce an illustration. 'On the whole' gives a general summary. 'In other words' rephrases.

## 2. “Nevertheless” (b)

'Nevertheless' is the most formal choice for academic writing. 'But' is too informal for an essay. 'Anyway' is conversational. 'Still' can work but is less formal than 'Nevertheless' in written academic register.

## 3. “Apparently” (d)

'Apparently' signals that the speaker is reporting information they have heard but cannot personally confirm — appropriate for unverified reports. 'Obviously' would mean the fact is self-evident, which doesn't fit unconfirmed evidence. 'Firstly' starts a list. 'Furthermore' adds information.

## 4. “At the same time” (a)

'At the same time' indicates two simultaneous actions — both happened together. 'As a result' would mean the spending cuts were caused by the tax increase, but the sentence presents them as two parallel decisions. 'In conclusion' summarises. 'That is to say' rephrases.

## 5. “What's more” (c)

'What's more' adds another positive point — reasonable prices alongside excellent food. 'Hence' would mean cheap prices are a result of good food. 'In other words' would mean 'reasonable prices' is just another way of saying 'excellent food'. 'To put it simply' oversimplifies.

## 6. “on the whole” (d)

'On the whole' means 'generally' or 'mostly' — it qualifies the statement, suggesting broad but not universal acceptance. 'For instance' introduces examples. 'In case' expresses precaution. 'As a result' signals consequence.

## 7. “So” (c)

'So' is the natural, informal way to express result in everyday speech. 'Consequently', 'Thus', and 'Accordingly' are all formal/academic alternatives that would sound stiff in casual conversation.

## 8. “Moreover” (b)

'Moreover' adds a second advantage — fewer side effects is additional good news, not a consequence of promising results. 'Therefore' implies cause and effect. 'In short' summarises. 'That is' rephrases.

## 9. “Clearly” (a)

'Clearly' is an attitude marker expressing the speaker's strong opinion that the unpredictability is obvious. 'Namely' specifies items in a list. 'Such as' introduces examples. 'Secondly' continues a numbered sequence.

## 10. “namely” (c)

'Namely' introduces the specific list of training areas mentioned. It signals 'specifically, these are the areas'. 'In conclusion' ends a discussion. 'As a result' signals consequence. 'Subsequently' signals time sequence.

## 11. “Unfortunately” (d)

'Unfortunately' is an attitude marker expressing the speaker's negative judgement about the broken promises. 'Consequently' would imply the broken promises were a logical result of making them. 'For example' would introduce an illustration. 'In addition' would simply add information.

**12. “Nonetheless” (a)**

'Nonetheless' means 'despite that' — the commercial success is surprising given the mixed reviews. 'Therefore' would mean the success was caused by mixed reviews. 'Namely' specifies items. 'In short' summarises.

**13. “Apart from” (c)**

'Apart from' means 'in addition to' — it introduces a second concern alongside cost. 'As a result of' and 'Owing to' both signal cause. 'In conclusion to' is not a standard English expression.

**14. “More specifically” (d)**

'More specifically' narrows down the general claim — 'unrealistic expectations' is a specific aspect of the harm. 'In contrast' would introduce an opposing view. 'All in all' summarises. 'Subsequently' indicates time sequence.

**15. “Even so” (c)**

'Even so' means 'despite all those setbacks' — it introduces a surprising or contrasting fact. 'Therefore' would mean the optimism is a result of the setbacks. 'In addition' would add more setbacks. 'For instance' would give an example of a setback.

**16. “in particular” (a)**

'In particular' highlights specific notable examples from a broader category. 'In summary' wraps up a discussion. 'Consequently' shows cause and effect. 'To begin with' starts a sequence.

**17. “At the same time” (c)**

'At the same time' introduces a parallel consideration — both reducing costs and increasing revenue should happen simultaneously. 'In other words' would mean 'increase revenue' is just a rephrasing of 'reduce costs'. 'In short' summarises. 'Namely' specifies.

**18. “Surprisingly” (a)**

'Surprisingly' is an attitude marker signalling that the speaker finds the positive reception unexpected. 'Namely' specifies items. 'Such as' introduces examples. 'Firstly' starts a numbered list.

**19. “in essence” (d)**

'In essence' means 'fundamentally' or 'at its core' — it reformulates the purpose of the contract in simpler terms. 'For instance' introduces an example. 'As a result' signals consequence. 'In case' expresses precaution.

**20. “To be specific” (b)**

'To be specific' elaborates on 'limitations' by giving concrete details. 'On the whole' gives a general summary, which contradicts specifying details. 'In contrast' introduces an opposing point. 'Hence' signals a consequence.