

What are Discourse Markers?

Worksheet

Discourse markers are connecting words that signal relationships between ideas — 'however' (contrast), 'therefore' (consequence), 'for instance' (example), 'in addition' (addition). They structure argument and create rhetorical effect.

Questions

1. What function does 'however' serve?

- A) adds information
- B) signals contrast
- C) introduces an example
- D) shows consequence

2. Complete: 'Sales dropped 20%. _____, we remain optimistic.'

- A) Therefore
- B) Furthermore
- C) Nevertheless
- D) For instance

3. Which marker introduces an example?

- A) however
- B) for instance
- C) therefore
- D) moreover

4. A discourse marker primarily serves to...

- A) replace verbs
- B) connect ideas
- C) describe nouns
- D) modify adjectives

5. Complete: 'The data shows a 10% increase. _____, critics argue the sample size was too small.'

6. Complete: 'First, we observed X. _____, we documented Y. Finally, we concluded Z.'

7. Complete: 'The policy failed in 2020. _____, it was abandoned by 2021.'

8. Define: Discourse marker: 'However'

9. Define: Discourse marker: 'Therefore'

10. Define: Discourse marker: 'For instance'

Answer Key

1. B) signals contrast — 'However' signals contrast — it introduces a statement that contrasts with or qualifies the previous one.
2. C) Nevertheless — 'Nevertheless' (concession marker) fits best — it acknowledges the negative fact but moves forward positively.
3. B) for instance — 'For instance' introduces a concrete example of a general statement.
4. B) connect ideas — Discourse markers connect ideas and guide readers through the logic of an argument.
5. The marker needed signals contrast or concession. Correct: 'However' or 'Nevertheless'. Full sentence: 'The data shows a 10% increase. However, critics argue the sample size was too small.'
6. The marker needed signals addition/sequence. Correct: 'Furthermore' or 'Moreover' (also 'In addition'). Full sequence: 'First, we observed X. Furthermore, we documented Y. Finally, we concluded Z.'
7. The marker signals logical consequence. Correct: 'Therefore' or 'Consequently'. Full: 'The policy failed in 2020. Therefore, it was abandoned by 2021.'
8. Function: signals contrast or contradiction. Example: 'She studied hard; however, she failed the exam.'
9. Function: signals logical consequence. Example: 'The experiment failed; therefore, we redesigned it.'
10. Function: introduces an example. Example: 'Many algorithms are biased. For instance, facial recognition often misidentifies dark skin tones.'

Bounlu

All cards, step-by-step solutions and an AI tutor are in the Notek app.
Promy turns exam dates into automatic reminders.