Discourse Markers for Academic Writing



Sequencing	Explaining Cause	Explaining Effect	Adding Information/Support	Giving an Example	Introducing Contrast	Giving Alternatives	Drawing Conclusions
Within One Sentence e.g. "As we took careful precautions, we achieved the expected results."							
when while	since as because	SO	and not only, but also		but whereas while	or either or neither nor	
New Sentence (i.e. NOT linked with a comma with the previous clause) e.g. Many drug trials fail. (new sentence) That does not mean we should not invest in pharmaceutical research, however. Note that "however" can be placed at the end, the beginning or in the middle of the sentence. The most important point is that you cannot link the sentence with however with the preceding sentence by using a comma.							
Firstly, Secondly, then meanwhile as soon as Finally,	That is the reason why	therefore consequently as a result hence thus	in addition additionally moreover furthermore Further less academic too, as well, Plus, also	for example for instance To illustrate this, An example of this is	however although/though nevertheless nonetheless In contrast, In comparison, Yet, on the other hand	similarly alternatively	To summarize, In conclusion, In sum, To conclude, To sum up, In summary,
Followed by a Noun or Noun Phrase e.g. The Board insisted on quality as well as a cut in prices.							
before after	owing to due to on account of because of	resulting in	and as well as not only, but also	for example for instance such as namely	in spite of despite unlike as opposed to	or eitheror neitheror	

Note: Capital letters indicate that the expression should be used at the beginning of a sentence.

Adapted from English for Academic Purposes, Cathy Cox and David Hill, Pearson Longman and Vocabulary for IELTS, Pauline Cullen, Cambridge University Press

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