

64 I can use discourse markers



I'm not very keen on the flat, or the area. **Mind you**, it's better than my last place. **Incidentally**, do you know how Marek's getting on in his new flat?

SIMON The company is likely to move its headquarters to Brussels. **As for** Deborah, she'll probably have to get a job with another insurance firm.

TANYA Yes, or **alternatively**, she could stay with the company in the UK, but in a different branch.

It's true that Peter was only trying to help. **Even so**, he shouldn't have got involved.

ASMA Do you think you'll go back to the same hotel?

BRAD Well, **as a matter of fact** we were a bit disappointed the last time we were there. **By and large** the staff were still very nice, but the food has really gone downhill.

I don't think Alistair should apply for the job in Munich. He doesn't have that much experience; and **in any case**, he doesn't speak German.

I may get the bus, or take a taxi if necessary. **At any rate**, I'll be there on time, so don't worry. And **as I was saying**, if you would like me to bring anything, just let me know.

Glossary

mind you	INF used to add a further comment which is usually a contrast or a surprise, but can also be an explanation. SYN still .
incidentally as for	used to change the conversation to a different topic. SYN by the way . used to start talking about sb or sth new that is connected with what you were talking about before.
alternatively it's true	used to introduce an idea that is a second choice or possibility. used to agree with an idea made by the previous speaker (but often before disagreeing). SYN I agree .
even so	used to introduce a counter-argument or return to one the speaker has already made. SYNS all the same , nevertheless .
as a matter of fact	used to say what you really think, or to introduce information which is not what the listener expects to hear. SYNS actually , to be honest , to tell you the truth .
by and large in any case	used to introduce a generalization. SYNS to a large extent , on the whole , broadly speaking . used to introduce an additional point and one that is often conclusive or the most important. SYNS besides , anyway .
at any rate	used to say that sth is true or sth will happen in spite of other things mentioned. SYNS anyway , anyhow .
as I was saying	used to return the conversation to sth you said earlier.

spotlight **anyway**

In spoken English, **anyway** can mean **in any case** (see above) or **at any rate** (see above), but it is commonly used to change the topic of conversation:

Yes, next year could be a difficult time. **Anyway**, let's not worry about that now. What would you like to eat?

1 Complete the phrases with words from the box to form ten discourse markers.

case extent honest you rate speaking fact so same whole

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|---------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | mind _____ | 5 | on the _____ | 8 | to be _____ |
| 2 | at any _____ | 6 | in any _____ | 9 | to a large _____ |
| 3 | even _____ | 7 | broadly _____ | 10 | all the _____ |
| 4 | as a matter of _____ | | | | |

2 Correct the error in the discourse marker in each sentence.

- Broad speaking, it was very interesting. _____
- We had a fantastic time. All same, I was glad to get home. _____
- We can take the bags, or alternative leave them here. _____
- I don't like the sea because the water is dirty. In every case, I can't swim very well. _____
- To say you the truth, I didn't like it very much. _____
- The restaurant's great, but as I was telling, it's not good for kids. _____

3 Replace the underlined word/phrase with a different word/phrase that has the same meaning.

- I think he was from the Czech Republic. By the way, what was his name again? _____
- The film has had great reviews, but to tell you the truth, I didn't like it. _____
- To a large extent, you can get by without speaking the language. _____
- I was disappointed with broadband. Still, it's faster than it was before. _____
- We can't give Mike a lift – he lives miles away. And in any case, the car's full. _____
- I agree some of the definitions could be shorter. Nevertheless, it's a good dictionary. _____
- I may find out the results this Wednesday, or I may have to wait until the weekend. At any rate, I'll phone you as soon as I know. OK? _____
- It's a lovely gallery, but as a matter of fact, we were only there for an hour. _____

4 Complete the sentences and dialogues with suitable discourse markers from the box.

by the way alternatively to be honest as for by and large
all the same besides mind you it's true

- I read that public transport was very cheap, but _____ I thought it was quite expensive.
- We might go to a camping site. _____ we could just stay in a B & B each night.
- _____ that a lot of people drop litter, which is very anti-social. _____, you can't start sending people to prison for that kind of offence.
- It wasn't a great place to stay. _____, it didn't cost a lot.
- A I've packed lots of jumpers so I'm prepared for the cold weather.
B Good, you'll need them. _____, what time does the plane take off?
- I've been told there's a very good Chinese restaurant in the main square. _____ somewhere to stay, I'm afraid I can't help you.
- You won't want to climb that hill – it's very steep. And _____, it's too far away.
- It can be cold in winter, but _____ it doesn't snow much.

5 **ABOUT YOUR LANGUAGE** Look at the texts on page 162 and try to translate the discourse markers into your own language. Remember it is spoken language.

 Remember to test yourself