


Comprehension by link (Signpost) words analysis

Signpost words


A text is not a series of unconnected clauses and sentences one after the other, like cars on a road. **Instead**, clauses and sentences *cohere* (stick together), like railway carriages. **And** one group of words that help them cohere are called *signpost words*. Consider: *The world's oil resources will probably be exhausted by the middle of the 21st century, **but**...* We do not yet know the exact words that are to come, **but** the signpost word *but* tells us what *type* of information to expect. The function of a signpost word, **then**, is to tell the reader what type of information comes next.

The following are some of the more common signpost words used in formal writing. The symbols beside them suggest how they connect information before and after. Suggest a suitable sentence to follow each signpost word.


However

 *however* warns the reader that the line of reasoning is about to change course, e.g. *Many people believe that nuclear power will solve our energy problems. However, ...*


In fact

 *in fact* introduces specific information to support the wider, more general information just given, e.g. *There is always the possibility of a major accident with nuclear power. In fact, ...*

On the contrary

 *on the contrary* reinforces and expands the information just given. (The information in the sentence before *on the contrary* is always negative; the information after *on the contrary* is positive.) e.g. *We have not yet exhausted the amount of land that can support human life. On the contrary, ...*

Moreover

 *moreover* develops the ideas, facts or reasons already given, by presenting additional ones, e.g. *Scientists and engineers are already draining forest swampland. Moreover, ...*

As a result →

→ *as a result* introduces the result of the information or argument given in the preceding sentence(s), e.g. *Improved varieties of rice and grain are being developed. As a result, ...*

e.g. e.g.

e.g. *for example* gives an example of something just mentioned, e.g. *Many countries have pollution problems. For example, ...*

In brief ↓

↓ *in brief* summarises the preceding reasoning, e.g. *The Earth is suffering from overpopulation, resource depletion, pollution, and the danger of intergroup warfare. In brief, ...*

Meanwhile ⇔

⇔ *meanwhile* introduces a reference to an event that takes place during the time that the preceding event takes place, e.g. *In the last ten years, oil consumption has more than doubled. Meanwhile, ...*

Therefore ∴

∴ *therefore* introduces the reason why the preceding statement, data, etc. was presented, e.g. *The sea provides us with food. Therefore, ...*

Of course ()

() *of course* reminds the reader of something he already knows or assumes, in case he has forgotten or does not fully understand, e.g. *Scientists are developing varieties of 'artificial' food. Of course, ...*

i.e. i.e.

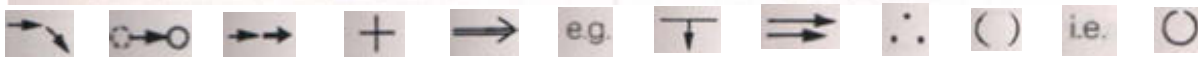
i.e. *in other words* restates the information just given, but in a different and simpler form, so as to help the reader understand, e.g. *For all practical purposes, the Earth is a closed system. In other words, ...*

In conclusion ○

○ *in conclusion* tells the reader that he has reached the end of the line of reasoning, e.g. *In conclusion, signpost words...*

Application

The following signpost words are each very similar in meaning to one of those above. Copy the list, and indicate their function by drawing the appropriate symbol against each one.



naturally
nevertheless
in addition
so
that is (to say)

to sum up
hence
for instance
furthermore
in short

in the meantime
to summarise
obviously
additionally
yet

thus
..., then, ...
consequently
accordingly
nonetheless

Answers

() naturally	○ to sum up	⇔ in the meantime	⇒ thus
↘ nevertheless	⇒ hence	↓ to summarise	+ ..., then, ...
+ in addition	e.g. for instance	() obviously	⇒ consequently
∴ so	+ furthermore	+ additionally	∴ accordingly
i.e. that is (to say)	↓ in short	↘ yet	→ nonetheless