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## Discourse Markers - Linking Your Ideas

Some words and phrases help to develop ideas and relate them to one another. These kinds of words and phrases are often called discourse markers. Note that most of these discourse markers are formal and used when speaking in a formal context or when presenting complicated information in writing.

### **with regard to; regarding; as regards; as far as ..... is concerned, as for**

These expressions focus attention on what follows in the sentence. This is done by announcing the subject in advance. 'As regards' and 'as far as.....is concerned' usually indicate a change of subject

**Examples:** *His grades in science subjects are excellent. **As regards** humanities ...*  
***With regard to** the latest market figures we can see that ...*  
***Regarding** our efforts to improve the local economy, we have made ...*  
***As far as I am concerned**, we should continue to develop our resources.*  
***As for** John's thoughts, let's take a look at this report he sent me.*

### **on the other hand; while; whereas**

These expressions give expression to two ideas which contrast but do not contradict each other.

*Football is popular in England, **while** in Australia they prefer cricket.*  
*We've been steadily improving our customer service center. **On the other hand** our shipping department needs to be redesigned.*  
*Jack thinks we're ready to begin **whereas** Tom thinks we still need to wait.*

### **however, nonetheless, nevertheless**

All these words are used to present two contrasting ideas.

*Smoking is proved to be dangerous to the health. **Nonetheless**, 40% of the population smokes.*  
*Our teacher promised to take us on a field trip. **However**, he changed his mind last week.*  
*Peter was warned not to invest all of his savings in the stock market. **Nevertheless**, he invested and lost everything.*

### **moreover, furthermore, in addition**

We use these expressions to add information to what has been said. The usage of these words is much more elegant than just making a list or using the conjunction 'and'.

*His problems with his parents are extremely frustrating. **Moreover**, there seems to be no easy solution to them.*  
*I assured him that I would come to his presentation. **Furthermore**, I also invited a number of important representatives from the local chamber of commerce.*  
*Our energy bills have been increasing steadily. **In addition** to these costs, our telephone costs have doubled over the past six months.*

### **therefore, as a result, consequently**

These expressions show that the second statement follows logically from the first statement.

*He reduced the amount of time studying for his final exams. **As a result**, his marks were rather low.*  
*We've lost over 3,000 customers over the past six months. **Consequently**, we have been forced to cut back our advertising budget.*  
*The government has drastically reduced its spending. **Therefore**, a number of programs have been canceled.*