Discourse Markers for C1 Advanced

Practice worksheet with answer key • C1

Name: _____ Date: _____

Aim: Practise using discourse markers accurately and naturally in C1 Advanced writing and speaking tasks. These exercises will help you connect ideas, show contrast, give examples, explain results and organise arguments clearly.

Quick reference: Useful C1 discourse markers

Function	Useful discourse markers
Adding information	moreover, furthermore, in addition, additionally, another important point is
Contrasting ideas	however, nevertheless, on the other hand, whereas, despite this
Giving examples	for example, for instance, such as, namely, to illustrate this point
Cause and effect	therefore, as a result, consequently, for this reason, this leads to
Sequencing ideas	to begin with, first of all, subsequently, finally, following this
Expressing opinion	in my view, I would argue that, it seems to me that, I firmly believe that
Making concessions	admittedly, it is true that, while this may be true, even so
Concluding	in conclusion, to sum up, overall, on balance, taking everything into account

1. Choose the correct discourse marker

1. The new timetable is more convenient for most students. _____, it gives teachers more time to prepare between lessons.

a) However b) In addition c) Although

2. The course is demanding. _____, it gives students excellent preparation for the exam.

a) Nevertheless b) Therefore c) For instance

3. Many students leave writing practice until the last minute. _____, they often feel unprepared before the exam.

a) As a result b) On the other hand c) Namely

4. The school offers several evening activities, _____ debates, film clubs and conversation sessions.

a) despite b) such as c) consequently

Discourse markers

Vocabulary and functions

1. Choose the correct discourse marker (continued)

5. _____, I believe that students should receive more individual feedback on their writing.

a) In my view b) Due to c) For example

6. The proposal is ambitious. _____, it could be introduced gradually over the next year.

a) Even so b) Namely c) Owing to

7. The library is popular with younger students. _____, older students rarely use it.

a) For this reason b) By contrast c) Furthermore

8. The organisers did not advertise the event widely. _____, very few people attended.

a) Consequently b) However c) To illustrate this point

9. _____, the film is enjoyable, although the ending is rather predictable.

a) Overall b) Such as c) Due to

10. It is true that online courses are flexible. _____, they require a high level of self-discipline.

a) What is more b) However c) Namely

2. Match the discourse marker to its function

Match each discourse marker with the correct function. Write the letter next to the number.

Discourse marker	Answer	Function
1. Nevertheless	____	A. to add another point
2. For instance	____	B. to introduce an example
3. In addition	____	C. to introduce specific names or items
4. Therefore	____	D. to conclude after considering different points
5. On balance	____	E. to show a result
6. Admittedly	____	F. to organise the first point
7. Namely	____	G. to accept that the opposite side has a point
8. To begin with	____	H. to show contrast

Correct the mistakes

Using discourse markers accurately

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains a mistake with a discourse marker. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. But however, many students prefer face-to-face lessons.

2. The event was cancelled due to it was raining heavily.

3. The course was expensive. Moreover, many students could not afford it.

4. Namely, I believe that young people should read more books.

5. Although the plan is useful, but it may be difficult to introduce.

6. The school needs better computers. For example, it should invest in new technology.

7. Students need more speaking practice, however the timetable is already full.

8. In conclusion, firstly, there are several reasons why this proposal should be accepted.

Rewrite the sentences

Connecting ideas naturally

4. Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each pair of ideas as one or two clear C1-level sentences. Use a suitable discourse marker.

1. Online learning is convenient. It can feel isolating.

2. Students need regular feedback. Teachers should mark writing more often.

3. The film starts slowly. The ending is powerful and memorable.

4. The library has many books. It does not have enough quiet study space.

5. Many people work from home now. Companies need better online communication systems.

6. The course helped students improve their grammar. It also improved their confidence.

7. Exams can be stressful. They give learners a clear goal.

8. The club should organise more speaking events. Debates and role plays would be useful.

Paragraph practice

Putting your knowledge into practice

5. Complete the paragraph

Complete the paragraph with suitable discourse markers. More than one answer may be possible.

Studying abroad can be a valuable experience for young people. _____, it gives them the chance to become more independent. _____, they can improve their language skills by using the language in real-life situations. _____, studying abroad can also be expensive and emotionally challenging. Some students may miss their families or find it difficult to adapt to a new culture. _____, with the right preparation and support, the experience can be extremely rewarding.

6. Exam-style paragraph practice

Write one well-organised paragraph of 80–100 words. Use at least four discourse markers, but make sure they sound natural.

Prompt: Some people believe that schools should focus more on practical skills than traditional academic subjects. Write one paragraph giving your opinion and supporting it with reasons and examples.

Self-check before you finish

☐ I used discourse markers for a clear purpose, not just decoration.

☐ I chose markers with the correct meaning.

☐ I used punctuation correctly after markers such as however and in addition.

☐ I avoided repeating the same marker too often.

☐ My tone is suitable for C1 Advanced writing.

Answer key

Suggested answers and corrections

Exercise 1

1. b) In addition; 2. a) Nevertheless; 3. a) As a result; 4. b) such as; 5. a) In my view; 6. a) Even so; 7. b) By contrast; 8. a) Consequently; 9. a) Overall; 10. b) However.

Exercise 2

1. H 2. B 3. A 4. E 5. D 6. G 7. C 8. F

Exercise 3: Suggested corrections

1. However, many students prefer face-to-face lessons. / But many students prefer face-to-face lessons.

2. The event was cancelled because it was raining heavily. / The event was cancelled due to heavy rain.

3. The course was expensive. As a result, many students could not afford it.

4. In my view, young people should read more books.

5. Although the plan is useful, it may be difficult to introduce. / The plan is useful, but it may be difficult to introduce.

6. The school needs better computers. For this reason, it should invest in new technology.

7. Students need more speaking practice; however, the timetable is already full. / Students need more speaking practice. However, the timetable is already full.

8. In conclusion, there are several reasons why this proposal should be accepted. / Firstly, there are several reasons why this proposal should be accepted.

Answer key

Suggested answers and model paragraph

Exercise 4: Suggested answers

1. Online learning is convenient. However, it can feel isolating for some students.

2. Students need regular feedback. For this reason, teachers should mark writing more often.

3. The film starts slowly. Nevertheless, the ending is powerful and memorable.

4. The library has many books. On the other hand, it does not have enough quiet study space.

5. Many people work from home now. Consequently, companies need better online communication systems.

6. The course helped students improve their grammar. In addition, it improved their confidence.

7. Exams can be stressful. Even so, they give learners a clear goal.

8. The club should organise more speaking events, such as debates and role plays.

Exercise 5: Possible answer

Studying abroad can be a valuable experience for young people. **To begin with**, it gives them the chance to become more independent. **In addition**, they can improve their language skills by using the language in real-life situations. **However**, studying abroad can also be expensive and emotionally challenging. Some students may miss their families or find it difficult to adapt to a new culture. **Nevertheless**, with the right preparation and support, the experience can be extremely rewarding.

Exercise 6: Model paragraph

In my view, schools should include more practical skills, although traditional academic subjects should not be ignored. **For example**, students would benefit from learning how to manage money, communicate professionally and solve everyday problems. **Furthermore**, these skills could help young people feel more confident when they enter the workplace. **However**, subjects such as history, science and literature are also important because they develop knowledge and critical thinking. **On balance**, I would argue that schools need a better mixture of academic and practical learning.