

Discourse Markers

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- Word/phrase that is relatively syntax-independent & does not change the meaning of the sentence and has a somewhat empty meaning
- Some of the words/phrases are treated as "fillers" or "expletives" : words/phrases that have no function at all
- Examples: oh, well, now, then, you know, I mean
- They are important to make your speech/text flow & to avoid a series of short, unconnected statements.
- Can be placed in any part of a sentence
- Different types of discourse markers are used for different types of links:
 - = Informal markers for speech
 - = formal markers for formal writing, such as essays & reports

INFORMAL & SPOKEN DISCOURSE MARKERS

- Discourse markers to order or sequence what we say
- Discourse markers as responses
- Discourse markers showing attitude
- Discourse markers sounding less direct