

d. Finally, the role of the computer in education will be discussed.

e. Various writers have examined this issue, for instance, Van Exel (2000).

f. Although this study concentrates mainly on students from abroad,

It is impossible, in the time available, to cover all the discourse markers in English, so, for the rest of the session, we will be focusing on those you might find the most useful.

Task 2: The following text is not easy to understand. That is because the discourse markers have been removed! Add appropriate discourse markers so that the text makes sense! I suggest you work in small groups.

There are two reasons for supporting pure scientific research. (1), it satisfies humans' natural curiosity about the universe in which we live. (2), technological advances that followed on from pure scientific research have led to improvement in our lives. (3), the non-stick coating on saucepans has made washing the dishes so much easier. (4), improved aeroplane materials have made flying faster, quieter and cheaper. (5), we should be grateful for pure scientific research.

Exploration of space has resulted in improved understanding about weather systems on other planets and moons in our solar system. , (6) we have an improved understanding of the earth's weather systems (7) the consequences of future changes such as global warming.

It is so easy for scientific advances to cause problems. (8), nuclear energy sounded wonderful when it was first developed. (9) of its expected low cost (10) lack of pollution. Safety was a concern and was taken seriously, (11) careful precautions were usually taken, and in most cases these did actually result in a low chance of an accident. (12), nothing is perfect, including safety systems, and when problems do happen, the consequences are extremely serious. (13), although actual operation of a nuclear reactor produces little visible pollution, disposal of the radioactive materials that are produced is extremely difficult and expensive and, (14), nuclear power is now considered too expensive in many countries. (15), many governments have stopped planning to build more nuclear reactors. This example clearly shows that the miracle of yesterday may become the disaster of tomorrow. Not every scientific advance has the expected result

Task 3: Read through the text again, this time categorising the discourse markers according to function. 'Therefore', for example, is used to express 'reason/result/cause and effect'. Also, what can you say about the position of the discourse marker in the sentence?