

Extension exercises

Chapter 23: Discourse markers

Exploring language

Listen carefully to two people talking and, if possible, record this so that you can transcribe a section of 20 or 30 lines. Also look at a page or two of some kind of textbook (for example, dealing with history, politics or art).

- 1 List the discourse markers that occur.
- 2 In each case account for their use.
- 3 Are any markers used particularly frequently?
- 4 Where do the various discourse markers occur in the sentences and paragraphs?

Course materials

Choose a book or part of a book that aims to teach 'conversational English' and one that aims to teach writing skills.

- 1 How much space does each give to the use of discourse markers?
- 2 Is there any overlap in the contents of the two books?
- 3 How precisely are broadly similar markers differentiated in terms of meaning and function?
- 4 How much attention does each book pay to sentence position?
- 5 Are real texts provided for analysis?
- 6 What opportunities are provided for practice?