ACADEMIC SKILLS

C21 ENGLISH FOR THE 21st CENTURY Level 5

Worksheet

Understand and use signal words and phrases

Student name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

FOCUS

Signalling words and phrases

In order to write clear texts, academic writers use signalling words and phrases. These help to organize the text by, for example, connecting ideas, introducing examples and showing what the author considers important.

In *C21 English for the 21st Century*, Level 5, you were introduced to signalling words and phrases in Units 8 and 9. Whenever you read a text, you are bound to see these words and phrases, even at a simple level (e.g. *and*, *but*, *so*). This worksheet will present a variety of different words and phrases for specific functions, which you can learn to recognise and use.

Practice

1 **Look at the extracts below from texts in *C21 English for the 21st Century*, Level 5 and circle two phrases that could replace those in bold. Suggest ways you could use some of the wrong answers.**

A

In the decade before the earthquake, water and sanitation facilities were getting worse **as a result of** a rapid rise in the population.

- leading to
- due to
- resulting in
- because of

B

Much of the criticism aimed at The Ocean Cleanup project seems to be prompted by Slat's youth, inexperience and apparent 'naivety' and to an extent these reservations are understandable. **On the other hand**, issues such as ocean pollution sometimes need a fresh and innovative problem-solving approach and this is exactly what this project offers.

- Nevertheless
- However
- Additionally
- Despite this

C

However, change can offer opportunities **as well as** challenges.

- and
- both
- also
- together with

D

Then, because of the precise angle of the leaves, gravity pulls the droplets off the leaf, taking all dirt particles with them. **In other words**, the lotus plant cleans itself.

- To put it simply
- Although
- By this I mean
- As a result of

E

Although their immediate political concerns vary from region to region, millennials in all areas surveyed are interested in social justice, improving everyone's access to education, and religious tolerance.

- In spite of the fact that
- Thanks to
- While
- Despite

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2 **Use the words and phrases from Exercise 1 to complete the table.**

Showing a cause/result	Adding points
as a result of thanks to _____ _____ _____ _____	and also _____ _____ _____ _____
Explaining	**Showing differences/contrast**
to rephrase what I'm saying is _____ _____ _____ _____	in spite of the fact that while _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

3 **Cross out the option that <u>does not</u> make sense. Use that word or phrase in a sentence of your own.**

1. I drink a lot of coffee ***even though / in spite of the fact that / because / although / despite the fact that*** it keeps me awake.
2. Cars and roads are now safer. ***What is more, / Furthermore, / Nevertheless, / Moreover, / In addition,*** street lighting is far more efficient than it used to be.
3. There are several factors contributing to the high crime rate, ***for example / despite / for instance / such as*** poor enforcement of the law and extreme poverty.
4. There are many cities which display this phenomenon, ***the most noteworthy being / a good example being / in other words / most notably*** London.
5. We dream of a future where we have a better understanding of the universe and our place in it. ***Fundamental to this / A chief consideration / However / A significant factor in this*** is the need to encourage young people to study the sciences.
6. He moved to Paris, where he was a complete unknown, ***in order to be able to / to be able to / so that he could / as well as being able to*** continue painting anonymously.

4 **In pairs or small groups, discuss your answers to Exercise 3. Say how the meaning changes with different options. Talk about the functions of the words/phrases. What do they tell us about the writer's intention?**

e.g. 1

I drink a lot of coffee <u>even though / in spite of the fact that / although / despite the fact that</u> it keeps me awake.

= I know the consequences <u>but I still</u> drink coffee (and suffer for it); the words/phrases tell us that the writer does it *anyway*.

I drink a lot of coffee because it keeps me awake.

= I drink coffee <u>to help me</u> stay awake; 'because' shows the reason the writer does it.

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Reflect

5 **How good do you think you have become at understanding and using signal words and phrases? Look at the underlined sections in the sentences below and, in pairs or small groups, discuss their function. Can you suggest alternatives that would do the same job?**

1. The buses used in our town are long overdue for replacement. Likewise, our light rail network is falling apart.
2. The smoke damages buildings and pollutes the atmosphere but it is especially dangerous for people who live and work in it.
3. The country was left off the old map solely because the map maker had no idea it existed.
4. The chairman was initially planning to fire all of those involved until he realised his son was one of them – hence the change of heart.
5. He started out studying fine arts, just as his father had done before him.
6. We are looking at ways to stop young people turning to crime. The chief factor in all of this is, of course, education.

6 **Discuss how the following signal words and phrases might be used.**

- firstly
- above all …
- both … and …
- to put it another way
- specifically
- not only … but also …

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