

UNIT 4

4.1 Discourse markers

Discourse markers are words and expressions that show how a p discourse is constructed. They can:

- show the connection between what is being said now to what said before.
- show the connection between what is being said now to what about to be said.
- show the speaker's attitude to what has been said.
- show the speaker's attitude to what he/she is saying.
- clarify, direct, correct, persuade, etc.

This list is not exhaustive.

Basically, you're spending too much money.

(This is the most important point.)

You think I'm wrong, but **actually** I'm right.

(I'm correcting you as gently as possible.)

Quite honestly, you need a better job.

(I'm going to speak to you sincerely.)

Apparently, there are good jobs in the City.

(I've heard this, but I don't know if it's true.)

Admittedly, you'd have to move.

(I know this point weakens what I'm saying.)

Surely you can understand what I'm saying?

(I don't know why you don't agree with me.)

After all, I gave you good advice before.

(Don't forget this. It explains why I'm right.)

As a matter of fact, I saved your company.

(This is a fact which might surprise you.)

Mind you/still that was a long time ago.

(It occurs to me that this contrasts with what I just said.)

Actually, you didn't thank me then, either.

(I'm adding some new information to what I just said.)

I mean, why should I bother about you?

(I'm trying to make things clear to you.)

Obviously, you aren't going to take my advice.

(This fact cannot be doubted.)

At least, I doubt if you will.

(I'm correcting or changing what I just said.)

Naturally, you'll do what you think is best.

(Of course this is what I would expect.)

Anyway, it's up to you.

(I'm concluding, and not talking about that any more.)

All in all, finding an interesting job isn't easy.

(I'm considering every part of the situation.)

The ball's in your court, **so to speak**.

(I'm using words that don't have their usual meaning.)

By the way, can you lend me some money?

(This isn't connected to what we've been talking about.)

Tags and replies

It has been said that a solid grasp of the systems of auxiliaries is essential to mastery of spoken English.