

# Conversation: Discourse Markers

1. "As unemployed people pay no taxes, they should be forced to do voluntary social work three days a week." Explain why this is a good or bad idea.
2. *Since* "gentlemen prefer blondes," I propose that you dye your hair blonde. Explain why you agree or disagree with my idea.
3. Do you agree that *due to* Instagram (and similar apps), people are becoming more vain than they used to be?
4. Do you think it's acceptable to miss work *owing to* the fact that your dog is sick? Explain your position.
5. Do you think it's important to call your father 'sir' *so as to* pay him the respect he deserves?
6. "Trump is a great president, and *as a result*...the world is a much better place." Do you agree or disagree? Give evidence.
7. Would you think it was fair if the teacher said that you hadn't done your homework and... *consequently*... he was going to fine you (poner una multa) fifty euros? Would fining students who didn't do their homework be a good idea?
8. "When I told my ex that I had a new job in Madrid, she/he said "Well, *in that case* our relationship is over." Do you think it's fair to break up with someone because they have to move to another city?
9. You punched me....*therefore* I punched you. Is that fair enough? Is revenge morally correct?
10. What's the best way to cook a steak *so that* it tastes extra delicious?
11. We all know you should save money *in case* something happens to your job, but are you good at saving money?
12. When was the last time you kicked someone *on purpose*?
13. The EU provides many advantages to its citizens, *yet* it is becoming more and more unpopular. Why?
14. Chris Cleave wrote, "*Thus* love makes fools of us all." In what sense does love make us fools?
15. Is it true that you would like to help a charity...*however*, you aren't sufficiently generous to give up the necessary time and money?
16. "Netflix is investing hundreds of millions in new series *Nevertheless*, I still find it hard to find good series there" Do you agree with this statement? What's the best series you've ever seen on Netflix?
17. Do you consume red meat, fatty foods and alcohol *even though* you know it's bad for your health? Why / Why not?
18. Do you sunbathe in the direct sun *despite* the warnings of doctors about the dangers? Describe your sunbathing habits.

19. Would you ever go for a swim in the sea on christmas day *in spite of* the cold? Which country has a tradition of ice cold swims on christmas day?
20. If I suddenly said to you, "*By the way*, I'd like to climb Mount Everest with you...would you accept my invitation?" Why / why not?
21. *Incidentally*, I wanted to ask you if you would be interested in joining my book club? We meet up once a week and discuss a book we're all reading? Interested? Why / why not?
22. Your best friend said that you're good fun when you're drunk, but *as a matter of fact* I know that you get quite aggressive, don't you? If you don't get aggressive...what adjective best describes your drunken behaviour?
23. Last week, I told my friend not to worry about her son smoking dope because, *in any case*, he'll probably grow out of it. Do you think that was good advice? Why? Why not?
24. What English noun would describe the following sentence: "You know... I really hate people who change the subject. *Anyway*, let's change the subject."?
25. Is it fair to say that you wouldn't be unhappy if you lost your job because *at least* you'd have more free time?
26. Do you think that people are, *on the whole*, good? Why do you believe or disbelieve this?
27. Do you think that, *all in all*, the high school education you received was *kind of* crap.
28. "I don't think gastroenteritis is that bad because *after all*, you'll lose a couple of kilos in a couple of days." Do you agree? Tell us about the worst food poisoning or gastroenteritis you ever had.
29. Last night, a friend told me that her boss said at the end of a conversation, "*Besides*... I'm not interested in your opinion because you're ugly." What do you think she should do about it?
30. "*Basically*, whoever you vote for - nothing ever changes." Do you agree with this statement? Give evidence to support your case.
31. "The End of Men" by Hanna Rosin shows there are more women than men working in the US and more women graduating from university. Do you agree with her that - *essentially* - men are in decline?
32. "*Obviously*, I would never marry a man/woman who was poor." Can you understand my position?
33. If you could be any animal, what animal would you be (*I mean*...if you had magical powers of transformation or something like that)?
34. Is it wrong to find a wallet in the street and keep it for yourself...*in other words*, is it immoral to not try to look for the person?
35. How would you respond if I said, "Give me ten euros...otherwise I'll start crying." Explain your reaction.
36. *As far as science is concerned*, which is your favourite discipline and why? Choose from physics, cosmology, chemistry and biology.
37. What are your feelings *as regards* the green party? Would you ever vote for them? Why/why not?

38. What are your thoughts *regarding* yoga and meditation?
39. How angry on a scale from 1 to 10 would you be if your best friend went out on a date with your sweetheart (*that is to say* ... your boyfriend or girlfriend?) Who would you be most angry at: him or her?
40. *On the one hand* Airbnb is damaging the hotel business, but on the other it's allowing ordinary people to earn extra cash and tourists to have cheap accommodation. What's your opinion of Airbnb?
41. Serving on a jury is a gigantic pain in the ass ... but *on the other hand* it's your civic duty. Have you or anyone you know served? Tell the story. Would you be happy to serve on a jury?
42. "You know, I'm sick and tired of reality TV." Does this statement reflect your point of view?
43. How do you... *like*... decide if *like*... an old person is sufficiently *like*... old enough for you to give up your seat?
44. "Young people are too lazy and lack discipline. *You see*, they've had it a life's too easy." Do you agree?
45. Do you think that French people are *kind of* rude, that Germans *are kind of* serious, and Italians *kind of* loud?
46. I *just* want to ask you a little favour: can you look after my pet for two weeks? Explain your answer.
47. Spain is corrupt *indeed*? Discuss!
48. *Thankfully*, we have one of the best healthcare systems in the world? Has your own experience of our system taught you to agree or disagree with this statement?
49. *Right*, now I'm going to take you to a bar and we're gonna...*like*...order a bottle of tequila. Who do you think will drop to the floor first if we drink lots of shots?
50. Would you say '*fair enough*' if an Islamic fundamentalist told you he was going to bomb the Israeli embassy? Why / why not?
51. You're not doing enough exercise, you're not studying hard enough, and *what's more*...you're not doing well at work. Defend yourself against these charges.
52. If I gave you a long list of fashion suggestions and then said '*last of all*, I recommend you start dressing like a punk?' would you follow my advice? Why / why not?
53. *Firstly*, we should make the rich pay taxes, *secondly*, we should reduce carbon emissions, and *lastly*, we should leave NATO? Do you agree with my plan?
54. *For a start*, Barcelona should fire its manager, and then relocate its stadium to Castelldefels. Think of five reasons why this is a bad idea.
55. Women are paid less than men, and *on top of that*... they are underrepresented in politics and business. What can you do to change this situation?
56. Briefly describe the buildup to the civil war.
57. Are you kind of sick of Facebook and Instagram and Youtube?

58. Would you say that, on the whole, immigration is good for society? (What is the synonym for “on the whole” (All in....))
59. Tell us about someone or something that really annoys you. When you reach the second thing that annoys you about them, use the phrase “*And what’s more...*” .
60. What’s the difference between ‘furthermore’ and ‘what’s more.’?
61. What do you think the law should be *as regards* the minimum wage? What’s a fair amount?