

Grammar L2GLO9

Discourse Markers

Learning Outcome 9: Discourse markers: sequential (*first, then, next, after that, finally*); illustrative (*such as, like*)

NOTICING A Read the sentences. Answer the questions below.

1. First, the students found it difficult to read the long texts in English, but then it became easier.
2. Math is useful for lots of jobs, such as jobs in banking, finance and IT.
3. Finally, you will write a short story. Then the lesson will be over.
4. Next, you click on all the things you want. After that, you click on “Buy”.
5. There are lots of things here that you could buy your friend, like paper, pens, pencils and paints.

Which underlined word(s) ...

- a. come before examples of something? _____ , _____
- b. tell you that something happens at the start? _____
- c. tell you that something happens last? _____
- d. tell you the next thing in a process? _____ , _____ , _____

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There are some words you use to show the order that things happen in. For example, the different things you need to do to make a meal. You use different words for different steps in this order:

- *First* is for the first step.
- *After that, next* and *then* are for other steps that come after the first step.
- *Finally* is for the last step.

These words go at the start of a sentence and use a comma after them.

There are other words and phrases you use to give examples of something: *such as* (more formal) and *like* (more informal). You use a comma before *such as* and *like*.

B Complete the description of a process with the correct words from exercise A. More than one answer may be possible.

How to make an omelet

- 1. _____ , take some eggs and break them into a bowl.
- 2. _____ , mix the eggs in the bowl.
- 3. _____ , put some butter in a pan and melt it.
- 4. _____ , put the eggs into the pan too. Let them move around the pan.
- 5. _____ , choose something to put in the omelet, 6. _____ cheese or tomatoes, and put it on one half of the eggs.
- 7. _____ , move the other half of the eggs on top of the cheese or tomatoes and you have an omelet.
- Put the omelet on a plate and eat on its own or with something else, 8. _____ fries or salad.

C Think of a process with five or six steps. Make notes about each step. Then describe the process using words from exercise A.

D Work in pairs. Read your sentences from exercise C to your partner, but don't say what the process is. Can your partner guess?