

## Discourse markers by Stephanie Valerio

### Additional writing activities

#### 1. Choose the correct discourse marker to complete the text below.

(1) *By and large* / *Incidentally*, technological advancement is considered a positive development (2) *on account of* / *besides* the many ways in which it makes our lives easier. (3) *Accordingly* / *Having said that*, there are those who claim that a lifestyle without technology would be somewhat appealing. Such thinkers aren't technologically incompetent; (4) *what's more* / *on the contrary*, they are often so proficient in social media and technological gadgetry that they have become dependent on it. (5) *Consequently* / *Conversely*, they feel a desire to undergo a technological detox to rid themselves of habits that could be considered detrimental. (6) *Nevertheless* / *Moreover*, such habits are hard to break and not everyone manages to give them up entirely. (7) *Therefore* / *As it so happens*, I tried living without technology myself last month – other than the bare minimum necessary for work – and I must say that (8) *likewise* / *on the whole*, I felt it was a positive experience. (9) *Likewise* / *Having said that*, my family agreed that it made a refreshing change not to see me glued to my phone at all hours of the day. (10) *Incidentally* / *Even so*, I can't deny that in this day and age, it would be plain unfeasible to attempt an entirely tech-free way of life.

#### 2. Complete each pair of sentences according to the given discourse marker.

- Vegetarianism is on the increase in many countries, **on account of** . . .  
Vegetarianism is on the increase in many countries. **Nevertheless**, . . .
- Bilingual children have been shown to be better at problem solving in comparison to their monolingual peers. **Incidentally**, . . .  
Bilingual children have been shown to be better at problem solving in comparison to their monolingual peers. **What's more**, . . .
- Being well-off isn't always a guarantee of emotional well-being. **On the contrary**, . . .  
Being well-off isn't always a guarantee of emotional well-being. **Having said that**, . . .
- Many young people lack the attention span necessary to succeed in traditional exams. **Besides**, . . .  
Many young people lack the attention span necessary to succeed in traditional exams. **Accordingly**, . . .
- Travel tends to be considered a worthwhile way to spend money. **Even so**, . . .  
Travel tends to be considered a worthwhile way to spend money. **On the whole**, . . .
- Many people nowadays prioritise their career over starting a family. **By and large**, . . .  
Many people nowadays prioritise their career over starting a family. **As it so happens**, . . .

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3. **Your class has recently attended a talk about how young people use technology and you have made the notes below:**

Ways in which an appropriate use of technology among young people can be encouraged:

1. Government campaigns
2. Family involvement
3. Educational programmes within schools

Some opinions expressed in the talk:

*"The government should take an active role in raising awareness of the issue."*

*"If children were set a good example, they would follow it."*

*"Schools have to address the problem as part of the curriculum."*

**Your teacher has asked you to write an essay discussing two of the ways mentioned in your notes. You should explain which way you think would be the most effective and give reasons for your opinion. You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the talk, but you should use your own words as far as possible.**