

Signal Words^{*}

1. Continuation Signals (*Warning—there are more ideas to come.*)

and	also	another
again	and finally	first of all
a final reason	furthermore	in addition
last of all	likewise	more
moreover	next	one reason
other	secondly	similarly
too	with	

2. Change-of-Direction Signals (*Watch out—we're doubling back.*)

although	but	conversely
despite	different from	even though
however	in contrast	instead of
in spite of	nevertheless	otherwise
the opposite	on the contrary	on the other hand
rather	still	yet
while	though	

3. Sequence Signals (*There is an order to these ideas.*)

first, second, third	A, B, C
in the first place	for one thing
then	next
before	now
after	while
into (far into the night)	until
last	during
since	always
o'clock	on time
later	earlier

4. Time Signals (*When is it happening?*)

when	immediately	now
lately	already	little by little
at the same time	final	after awhile
once	during	

5. Illustration Signals (*Here's what that principle means in reality.*)

for example	specifically
for instance	to illustrate
such as	much like
in the same way as	similar to

6. Emphasis Signals (*This is important.*)

a major development	it all boils down to
a significant factor	most of all
a primary concern	most noteworthy
a key feature	more than anything else
a major event	of course
a vital force	pay particular attention to
a central issue	remember that
a distinctive quality	should be noted
above all	the most substantial issue
by the way	the main value
especially important	the basic concept
especially relevant	the crux of the matter
especially valuable	the chief outcome
important to note	the principle item

7. Cause, Condition, or Result Signals (*Condition or modification is coming up.*)

because	if	of
for	from	so
while	then	but
that	until	since
as	whether	in order that
so that	therefore	unless
yet	thus	due to
resulting from	consequently	without

8. Spatial Signals (This answers the “where” question.)

between	below	about	left	alongside
here	outside	around	close to	far
right	over	away	side	near
near	in	into	beside	
middle	next to	beyond	north	
east	on	opposite	over	
south	there	inside	in front of	
under	these	out	behind	
across	this	adjacent	above	
toward	west	by	upon	

9. Comparison-Contrast Signals (*We will now compare idea A with idea B.*)

and	or	also
too	best	most
either	less	less than
more than	same	better
even	then	half
much as	like	analogous to
but	different from	still
yet	however	although
opposite	rather	while
though		

10. Conclusion Signals (*This ends the discussion and may have special importance.*)

as a result	consequently	finally
from this we see	in conclusion	in summary
hence	last of all	therefore

11. Fuzz Signals (*Idea is not exact, or author is not positive and wishes to qualify a statement.*)

almost	if	looks like
maybe	could	some
except	should	alleged
nearly	might	reputed
seems like	was reported	purported
sort of	probably	

12. Nonword Emphasis Signals

exclamation point (!)

underline

italics

bold type

subheads, like *The Conclusion*

indentation of paragraph

graphic illustrations

numbered points (1, 2, 3)

very short sentence: *Stop war.*

“quotation marks”

* Fry, E. B., Kress, J. E., & Fountoukidis, D.L. (1993). *The reading teacher's book of lists, 3rd edition*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, pp.185-187. By permission.