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

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

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

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

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


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