

CA130

file

Signal Words—Words the Author Uses to Tell the Reader How to Read

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 (<i>far into the night</i>)	until
last	during
since	always
o'clock	on time
later	earlier

4. 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

5. 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

SIGNAL WORDS

a major event	pay particular attention to
a vital force	remember that
a central issue	should be noted
a distinctive quality	the most substantial issue
above all	the main value
especially important	the basic concept
especially relevant	the crux of the matter
especially valuable	the chief outcome
important to note	the principal item

6. Cause, condition, or result signals (Condition or modification 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	

7. Spatial signals (Answers the "where" question):

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

8. 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		

9. **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

10. **Fuzz signals** (Idea not exact, or author 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	proported
sort of	probably	

11. **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"