

Learning together

Making Links Between Sentences and Parts of a Text

ACTIVITY #5

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES
3RD CYCLE — PRIMARY

By **Laurence Arcouette**,
Educational Specialist, for Institut TA



Purpose of the activity

The goal is to pay attention to connecting words and text organizers, which help us understand how ideas are linked in a sentence or a text.



Relevance of the activity

To make a text easier to understand, we can find transition words and text organizers. Their role is to create links between sentences and different parts of the text. We see them in writing, but we also use them when speaking to connect our ideas.



Supplies



- Text *Tornadoes* (see Appendix)
- Table of connecting words according to their meaning (see Appendix)

To do this activity, you can also use:

- informational texts your child has to read for school;
- an informational book at your child's reading level.

LET'S GO!

What?



Today, we are going to learn to pay attention to the discourse markers and textual organizers in a text.

Why?



When you hear the words “discourse markers” and “textual organizers,” you might not think that you know what they are. However, as mentioned earlier, I am sure you have already read and even used them! Think of words such as **for example, plus, because, then** or **first, then, in summary, etc.**

When?



While and after you are reading, discourse markers and textual organizers are important to facilitate your understanding.

How?



Reminder: Each discourse marker and textual organizer has its own meaning. They are used in different contexts, where their meaning helps highlight the links between sentences and different parts of a text.

Here is a table presenting the most frequently used discourse markers and textual organizers. You will probably recognize some of them.

Show your child the **table of connecting words by meaning** (in the Appendix) and take the time to review it together.

These words are important because they help us understand the connections between sentences and different parts of a text.

Let's look at an example taken from the text *Tornadoes* in the Appendix.

"Second, tornadoes are usually formed during large thunderstorms called supercells. Since the warm air on the ground rises and meets the cold air at altitude, it creates instability. **In addition**, if winds change direction and increase with altitude, it produces wind shear which leads to the formation of a tornado."

- In this excerpt, the word "second" gives us a clue that we are progressing in the text. It is placed at the beginning of a new paragraph and marks the change from one part of the text to another. It is useful to connect the whole text together!
- The word «in addition» indicates an additional point. We are told another way in which tornadoes can form.

Discourse markers and textual organizers help link ideas together, clarify the relationship between sentences or paragraphs, and guide the reader through the development of the author's thinking. They structure the text and make it easier to read and understand. In addition, they help you orient yourself in the text.

You can now practise this strategy using a book that matches your child's reading level.



Don't forget!

When you read, try to identify the connecting words in the text. Also ask yourself: Would the text be as clear if this word were removed?



Tornadoes

First of all, it is important to know what a tornado is. A tornado is an extreme weather phenomenon that creates a funnel of very strong winds. **In fact**, the winds in a tornado can reach up to 400 kilometres per hour, which can cause considerable damage on its path.

Tornado Formation

Second, Tornadoes are usually formed during large thunderstorms called supercells. **Since** the warm air on the ground rises and meets the cold air at a higher altitude, it creates instability. **In addition**, if winds change direction and increase with altitude, it produces wind shear which leads to the formation of a tornado.

Location and Frequency

With respect to their location, tornadoes can appear anywhere in the world, but they are mostly common in a part of the United States nicknamed "Tornado Alley." This area includes Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska.

How Do You Protect Yourself from Tornadoes?

Finally, it is essential to be well prepared for tornadoes. **First**, you need to pay attention to weather warnings and have an emergency plan. **Then**, it is recommended to take shelter in a basement or, failing that, in a room without windows located in the centre of the house.



Table of connecting words according to their meaning

Type of relationship or link	Examples of discourse markers
Addition	and, in addition, as well as,
Cause	because of, since, as
Consequence	so, then, that's why
Opposition	but, on the other hand, while
Explanation	that is why, for example, in fact
Comparison	like, less than, too
Time	after, when, while
Introduction	at first, first of all
Continued	then, after, following that
End	finally, lastly, in conclusion, in the end