

Listening Strategy 6:

# **DISCOURSE MARKERS**

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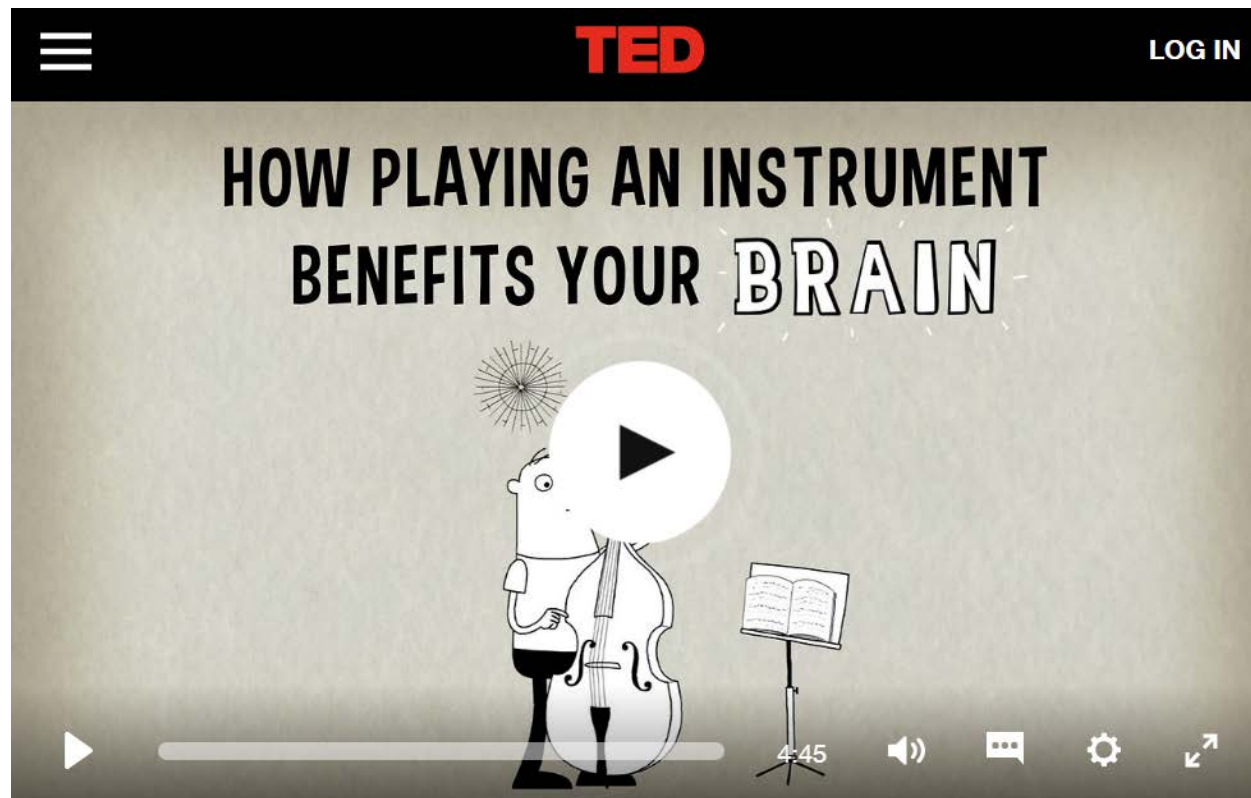
a word or phrase used to organize spoken language  
into different parts

# Examples in speaking

- Starting a sentence:
  - So,...
  - Right,...
  - Well,...
  - Now,...
  - Ok,...
- To return to a topic:
  - By the way,...
  - Anyways,...
- To repeat:
  - Like I said,
  - I mean,
- Ordering:
  - First, Second, Third,
  - Then, Next
  - Last (but not least)
- Shared knowledge:
  - you know,...
  - you know what I mean, right?
- Show attention:
  - Uh-huh
  - Yes/Yeah/Yeap
  - Right,
  - Ok,
  - Gotcha/ Got it!
- Interest:
  - Oh! Wow! Really?
  - I see! That's great!
- Agreeing:
  - Ok! Good!
  - Great! Certainly!
  - Sure! For sure!
  - Definitely! Exactly!
- Disagreeing:
  - Yes, but (uh)...
  - Well, the thing is...
  - Actually,...
  - Still,...
  - Well,...
  - Hmmm,

# Practice

Ted-Ed – How playing an instrument benefits your brain



- Video:  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/anita\\_collins\\_how\\_playing\\_an\\_instrument\\_benefits\\_your\\_brain/up-next](https://www.ted.com/talks/anita_collins_how_playing_an_instrument_benefits_your_brain/up-next)

# Practice: find discourse makers!

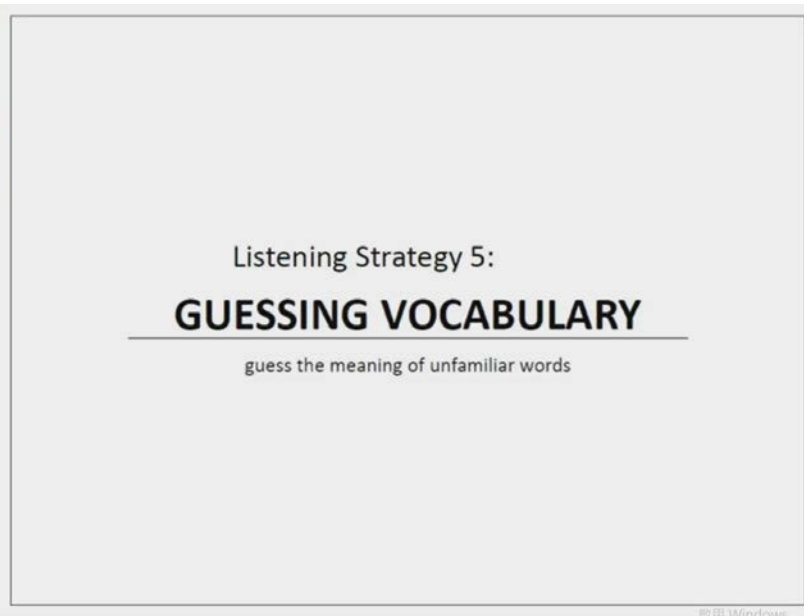
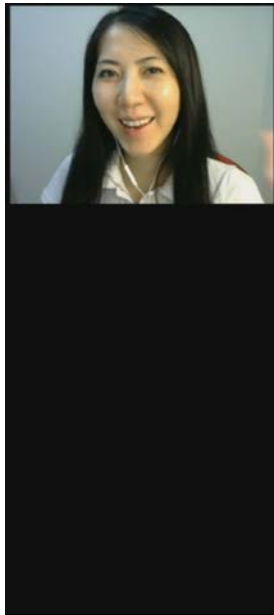
- Did you know that every time musicians pick up their instruments, there are fireworks going off all over their brain? On the outside, they may look calm and focused, reading the music and making the precise and practiced movements required. But inside their brains, there's a party going on.
- How do we know this? Well, in the last few decades, neuroscientists have made enormous breakthroughs in understanding how our brains work by monitoring them in real time with instruments like fMRI and PET scanners. When people are hooked up to these machines, tasks, such as reading or doing math problems, each have corresponding areas of the brain where activity can be observed. But when researchers got the participants to listen to music, they saw fireworks. Multiple areas of their brains were lighting up at once, as they processed the sound, took it apart to understand elements like melody and rhythm, and then put it all back together into unified musical experience. And our brains do all this work in the split second between when we first hear the music and when our foot starts to tap along.
- But when scientists turned from observing the brains of music listeners to those of musicians, the little backyard fireworks became a jubilee. It turns out that while listening to music engages the brain in some pretty interesting activities, playing music is the brain's equivalent of a full-body workout. The neuroscientists saw multiple areas of the brain light up, simultaneously processing different information in intricate, interrelated, and astonishingly fast sequences.

# Did you hear the discourse markers?

- Did you know that every time musicians pick up their instruments, there are fireworks going off all over their brain? **On the outside**, they may look calm and focused, reading the music and making the precise and practiced movements required. **But** inside their brains, there's a party going on.
- How do we know this? **Well**, in the last few decades, neuroscientists have made enormous breakthroughs in understanding how our brains work by monitoring them in real time with instruments like fMRI and PET scanners. When people are hooked up to these machines, tasks, **such as** reading or doing math problems, each have corresponding areas of the brain where activity can be observed. **But** when researchers got the participants to listen to music, they saw fireworks. Multiple areas of their brains were lighting up at once, as they processed the sound, took it apart to understand elements **like** melody and rhythm, and then put it all back together into unified musical experience. **And** our brains do all this work in the split second between when we first hear the music and when our foot starts to tap along.
- **But** when scientists turned from observing the brains of music listeners to those of musicians, the little backyard fireworks became a jubilee. It turns out that **while** listening to music engages the brain in some pretty interesting activities, playing music is the brain's equivalent of a full-body workout. The neuroscientists saw multiple areas of the brain light up, simultaneously processing different information in intricate, interrelated, and astonishingly fast sequences.

# Practice

- Go back and watch one of my previous videos again. This time listen for discourse markers that I use! I use A LOT! 😊



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