Subtypes of Relationships and Examples of Signal Words

Signal word examples are in italics.

Addition
1. Equality: He is tall, and he is handsome.
3. Example: He does many things well. For example, he is excellent at cards.
4. Summation: He does many things well. He cooks. He sews. In all, he is an excellent homemaker.

Contrast
1. Antithesis: I will be there, but I won't be happy.
2. Alternative: Either it will rain or it will snow.
3. Comparison: Bill is tall. In comparison, his brother is short.

Time
1. Subsequent action: They went to the game. Afterward, they went to the dance.
2. Prior action: They went to the game before they went to the dance.
3. Concurrent action: Bill thought about Mary while Mary thought about Bill.

Cause
1. Direct cause: He won the race by maintaining his concentration.
2. Result: Bill went home. Consequently, the party ended.
3. Reason: He went to the store because he needed food.
4. Inference: Mary is going on a long trip. In that case, she should plan well.
5. Condition: Unless you stop, I will leave.

Signal Words for the Cause Subtype
- Direct cause: by, due to, owing to, through
- Result: consequently, hence, now, so, therefore, thus, as a consequence, for all that, as a result, whereupon, accordingly, the result was, this is the reason
- Reason: because, because of, in that, so that, since, so on account of, for the fact that
- Inference: else, otherwise, in that case, then
- Condition: now that, providing that, supposing that, considering that, granted that, admitting that, assuming that, presuming that, seeing that, unless . . . then, as long as, in so far as, if, where . . . there, when . . . then, no sooner . . .

To see signal words in the subtypes of Addition, Contrast, and Time, go to www.marzanoresearch.com/documents/reproducibles/teaching_assessing/figure5.2.pdf.

This material is a supplement to the December 2012 / January 2013 Educational Leadership column “Art and Science of Teaching: Analyzing Complex Texts” by Robert J. Marzano.