



Common Language Cues in Lectures

Language cues (also called signal words or discourse cues) are used to (1) signal that certain information is about to be given and (2) they are also show relationships between ideas. Understanding how language cues link information together will help listeners understand the structure and the important information of a lecture better. Below are just a few examples of different kinds of language cues that speakers use to help communicate their message.

<p>Give Lecture Topic</p> <p>This class is about ... Today's lecture is about...</p>	<p>State Organization</p> <p>First we will... Then we will... We will finish up with... We are going to discuss... We will look at...</p>	<p>Explain a Word/Concept</p> <p>...is called... ...is known as... ...is referred to as ... Let's define... ...means...</p>	<p>Change Topic</p> <p>First, second, third, finally... Let me begin/start with ... Let's move on to... Last, but not least, ... Let's review... So...</p>	<p>Give an Example</p> <p>... can be illustrated by... For instance, ... For example, ...</p>
<p>Add a Point</p> <p>another equally important furthermore in addition moreover</p>	<p>Restate</p> <p>in other words (i.e.) that is this/that means . . . to put it differently what I am saying is ...</p>	<p>Emphasize</p> <p>above all actually especially in fact most importantly undoubtedly We have to understand.. without question</p>	<p>Summarize/Conclude</p> <p>as we have seen to conclude to summarize to wrap things up</p>	<p>Show Logical Flow of Thought</p> <p>as a result because consequently for this reason in order to result in therefore thus</p>

<p>Show Contrast (the opposite of what is being discussed)</p> <p>alternatively but different from however in contrast to nevertheless on the contrary on the other hand rather than unlike while whereas</p>	<p>Show Similarity</p> <p>In the same way like likewise similar to similarly</p>	<p>Generalize</p> <p>as a rule broadly speaking in general in most cases on the whole to some extent</p>	<p>Classify</p> <p>can be classified according to . . .</p> <p>can be divided into several groups . . .</p> <p>can be grouped according to . . .</p>	<p>Mark Time</p> <p>after that currently eventually In the future In the past</p>
<p>Go off topic</p> <p>By the way... Let me tell you about when...</p>	<p>Return to Topic</p> <p>return to go back to Where was I?</p>	<p>Show Opinion</p> <p>frankly honestly I suppose I think I'm afraid no doubt unfortunately</p>	<p>Limit Meaning (qualifier)</p> <p>appears essentially generally indicates mostly seems suggests slightly somewhat</p>	