

# 10b

## Managing discourse

### Literacy and numeracy

UNIT AIMS

**Skill:** managing discourse

**Vocabulary:** education topic vocabulary

**Exam practice:** *First Speaking Part 2*

#### Improve your speaking skills: managing discourse

##### Why is managing discourse important?

*Managing discourse involves making sure that what you say makes sense as a whole. It includes using appropriate phrases to structure what you say, as well as putting your ideas in a logical order. Managing discourse is important in any situation where you have to speak on your own for a short time and express your opinion. You need to know a range of phrases for managing discourse, such as First of all ..., On the other hand ..., As well as that ..., etc. Managing discourse is particularly important in First Speaking Part 2.*

Managing discourse is particularly important in *First* when you have to

- A think of an answer to a personal question.
- B listen to the examiner and the other candidate.
- C compare two photographs.

#### Get started

Look at the photo and answer the question.

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a calculator to solve mathematical problems?

#### Develop your vocabulary

- 1 Write a word from the box in each gap to complete the sentences.

academic ■ assignment ■ continuous ■ coursework ■ journal  
■ sector ■ tutor ■ vocational

- 1 He has written an article about the history of mathematics in society for a scientific \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 My teacher has given me an \_\_\_\_\_ on modern poetry to be finished by tomorrow.
- 3 Fortunately, at my university our marks are based on \_\_\_\_\_ assessment so we don't have to study for exams.
- 4 I'd like to work in the education \_\_\_\_\_ with students who have special needs.
- 5 They've given us a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to do this term.
- 6 My local training college offers a wide range of \_\_\_\_\_ courses, including computer programming, beauty therapy and child care.
- 7 The college offers both \_\_\_\_\_ and technical qualifications.
- 8 Her father has hired a private \_\_\_\_\_ to help her get her maths grades higher.

## Develop your speaking skills: managing discourse

- 1 Decide whether each linking word or phrase from the box is ordering/sequencing, offering an opinion or comparing/contrasting.

also ■ as far as I'm concerned ■ as well as that ■ both pictures show ■ first of all ■ however  
 ■ if you ask me ■ in my view ■ it's very similar to ■ on the other hand ■ speaking for myself ■ what's more

- 2  Listen to five students and match each speaker with the ideas they express.

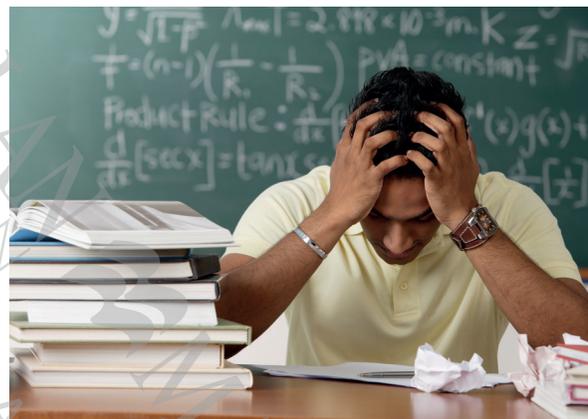
- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Speaker 1</b> _____ | <b>a</b> considering an alternative possibility                       |
| <b>Speaker 2</b> _____ | <b>b</b> discussing the similarities between two methods              |
| <b>Speaker 3</b> _____ | <b>c</b> talking about the differences between two similar situations |
| <b>Speaker 4</b> _____ | <b>d</b> speculating about an activity in a photograph                |
| <b>Speaker 5</b> _____ | <b>e</b> giving a personal opinion on an issue                        |

- 3 Choose the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

- In / On** fact, a degree in maths can open a lot of doors in the science and technology sector.
- Finally / In last place**, text messaging is affecting how people use language in other areas of their life.
- I'd **tell / say** that the students are taking part in a seminar of some sort to discuss the book they've read for their coursework.
- This / It** is true that students on a distance-learning course have to learn to study well on their own.
- In **these / other** words, mathematics is a type of language, too.
- Apart **to / from** that, both pictures show different types of text from both printed and electronic sources.

- 4 Write a word in each gap to complete the description of the photo.

It (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to me that this picture shows a student struggling over some kind of coursework. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of all, I can see that he has his head in his hands so, if you (3) \_\_\_\_\_ me, he's feeling quite frustrated. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ he has a difficult assignment. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ possibility is that he doesn't understand this part of the coursework. In (6) \_\_\_\_\_, I think it's fair to say that students are often under a lot of pressure. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ is especially true when students need to revise for an examination. (8) \_\_\_\_\_, there's always the chance he's simply overworked and could do with a break.



- 5 Look at the notes and talk about the advantages and disadvantages of each issue using phrases which you have learnt in this unit.

**1 Academic education vs Vocational education**

Advantages: academic education good for all round knowledge, vocational education can ensure a good job  
 Disadvantages: academic education doesn't prepare you for life, vocational education too restricted

**2 Continuous assessment vs Exams**

Advantages: continuous assessment a fairer way of judging ability, exams help the best students rise to top  
 Disadvantages: continuous assessment not tough enough, exams aren't always an accurate measure of ability

**3 Arts subjects vs Science subjects**

Advantages: the arts teach us about the human experience, science is the foundation of nearly all knowledge  
 Disadvantages: arts aren't very practical in terms of job prospects, sciences don't teach you about life

- 6** Answer the following questions using phrases you have learnt in this unit.
- How high are the literacy and numeracy rates in your country?
  - Are educational standards for literacy and numeracy better or worse than they were in the past?
  - Some people say that reading literature for pleasure is the only way to really understand language well. Do you agree?
  - Is the use of electronic gadgets harming literacy and numeracy skills?
  - How important is vocational training for young people?

**Pronunciation: /ə/ in weak syllables**

- 1** Many unstressed (weak) syllables are pronounced using the sound /ə/. In the following sentences, underline all the syllables that are pronounced /ə/.
- 1 A good education is important for all.
  - 2 My teacher was a very intelligent funny man.
  - 3 I'm thinking of doing a course in mathematics in the summer.

- 2**  Listen and check. Practise saying the sentences.

*Exam focus:*

**managing discourse in First**

- 1** Look at the exam practice section on page 85 and decide if these statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Using a range of phrases will make what you say easier to understand as well as help you order your ideas. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 You should think of the points you want to make before you begin and try and think of phrases which will help you to express those ideas. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 There aren't many differences between the two photographs shown, so you may have to fill in the time talking about unrelated ideas. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 It's a good idea to think about general ideas relating to an issue as well as giving your own personal opinions. \_\_\_\_\_

**Skills tip**

In *First* Speaking Part 2, does managing discourse help you to

- a** put your ideas and opinions in a logical order? **Yes / No**
- b** fill up time when you don't know what to say? **Yes / No**

- 2** What are the advantages and disadvantages of each way of learning? Make notes.

**Individual tuition**

*you have complete attention of the teacher*

**Working in groups**

*chance to discuss ideas with others*

## Exam practice: First Speaking Part 2

### Different ways of learning

**Part 2** 4 minutes (6 minutes for groups of three)

**Interlocutor** In this part of the test, I'm going to give you two photographs. I'd like you to talk about your photographs on your own for about a minute and also to answer a question about your partner's photographs.

(Candidate A), it's your turn first. Here are your photographs. They show **different ways of learning**.

I'd like you to compare the photographs and say **which you think is the best way of learning**.

### Which is the best way of learning?



**Interlocutor** Thank you.

(Candidate B), which of these ways of learning suits you better? Why?

### Skills tip

In Part 2 of the Speaking paper, you need to be able to talk on the subject of the photographs for one minute and express your opinions in an ordered and logical way. It's important to use appropriate phrases to introduce your ideas and put them in a logical sequence. The way you manage discourse will enable you to have better control of the ideas and opinions you want to express.