

Signal Words

"Signal words" give hints about what is about to happen in what you're reading. Understanding them is a key to comprehension. Reading and making up examples which use them is a good way to understand them at whatever level of abstraction a student is prepared to comprehend.

Cause-Effect

therefore
because
thus
if ... then
it follows
hence
for this reason
since
furthermore

Compare/Contrast

but
however
on the other hand
yet
either...or...
while
unless
even if
in comparison
although
still,...
despite
on the contrary
likewise
notwithstanding
nevertheless
regardless

Time/Sequence

on (Tuesday...)
not long after
now
before
after
afterwards
later
formerly
meanwhile
previously
to begin with
first
secondly
next
then
finally
in addition
ultimately
shortly
eventually
at last
initially
in quick
succesion
ever since