

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

Churchill's Fulton Speech

6. Conjunctions II – but, yet, however, instead, whereas, although, by contrast, on the other hand, on the contrary

The contrastive conjunctions 'but', 'yet', 'however', 'instead', 'by contrast', 'on the other hand', etc. are going to be essential in your essays, especially for AQA students as they prepare to do the 'how far do you agree' question.

Because they introduce contrasting or contradictory information, these contrastive conjunctions will allow you to qualify your statements, argue two sides to a question, and avoid statements which are too one-sided.

1. Consider the following sentence:

“Stalin’s Bolshoi speech contained the normal Communist attacks on capitalism, but one sentence claimed: capitalism proceeds through war’..

I have used the simplest contrastive conjunction – ‘but’. Taking with a friend, try out other contrastive conjunctions to see if you can find a better one. Some of them subtly change the meaning of the sentence – talk about how.

2. Use contrastive conjunctions to draw out contrast between the assertions in the Long Telegram and the Novikov Telegram. Again, discuss and choose the contrastive conjunction which best fits the contrast:

- The Long Telegram _____ <contrastive conjunction> the Novikov Telegram _____.
- The Long Telegram _____ <contrastive conjunction> the Novikov Telegram _____.
- The Long Telegram _____ <contrastive conjunction> the Novikov Telegram _____.

3. Now study the section of the webpage on the Fulton Speech. Use contrastive conjunctions to draw out the negative effects of the speech for the Cold War. Again, discuss and choose the contrastive conjunction which best fits the contrast:

- Churchill said “ _____ ” <contrastive conjunction> _____.
- Churchill said “ _____ ” <contrastive conjunction> _____.
- Churchill said “ _____ ” <contrastive conjunction> _____.

4. Finally, use contrastive conjunction to make some nuanced conclusions about the growing rift between the Soviet Union and the West.

- The Soviets believed _____ <contrastive conjunction> _____.
- The West believed _____ <contrastive conjunction> _____.