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Advanced Discourse Markers

Hard | C1 | Advanced | Adjective | Adverb | Complex sentence | Conjunction | Phrase | Semicolon | Idiom

1. Read the office gossip's dramatic retelling of a rumor. Select ALL the discourse markers that correctly signal she is abandoning her random tangent and returning to her main story.

"I think the CEO's new sports car is a midlife crisis purchase. Which reminds me, my uncle just bought a motorcycle. But _____, the point is, the company is definitely going bankrupt."

Select all that apply.

A) anyway
B) in any case
C) at any rate
D) by the way
E) incidentally

2. Complete the supervillain's evil (but surprisingly well-organized) memo to his henchmen.

We must capture the mayor's prized poodle before midnight to ensure our demands are met. _____, I have ordered a fleet of silent hover-scooters for the extraction team.

Select one.

A) Notwithstanding
B) Conversely
C) To that end
D) Albeit

3. The culinary critic is trying to clarify his scathing review of the chef's avant-garde soup. Choose ALL the phrases that logically and grammatically fit the gap to translate his sophisticated critique into blunt truth.

"The chef's fusion of fermented cabbage and chocolate syrup creates a profound dissonance on the palate; _____, it tastes absolutely revolting."

Select all that apply.

A) in other words
B) to put it bluntly
C) simply put
D) by the same token
E) on the whole

4. Help the debate moderator summarize the politician's rather contradictory performance by choosing the correct phrase.

The candidate's charisma is undeniable, and he certainly knows how to charm a crowd. _____, his proposed economic policies completely ignore basic mathematical reality.

Select one.

A) By the same token
B) Be that as it may
C) Inasmuch as
D) To that end

5. Help Professor Higgins defend his slightly explosive invention! Select ALL the discourse markers that correctly complete his statement by acknowledging a flaw while emphasizing his ultimate success.

"The time machine does occasionally singe the operator's eyebrows; _____, it represents a monumental breakthrough in quantum physics."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** nevertheless
- **B)** be that as it may
- **C)** having said that
- **D)** on the contrary
- **E)** consequently

6. Help an overly dramatic roommate complete their highly formal (and slightly ridiculous) complaint about the kitchen situation by choosing the correct discourse markers for each gap.

I acknowledge your contribution of the premium dish soap; _____, leaving a lasagna pan to soak for three weeks is simply unacceptable.

I find your excuse of being "too busy" completely invalid, _____ I watched you play video games for six hours straight yesterday.

The kitchen is finally clean, _____ smelling rather strongly of industrial bleach and passive-aggression.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** be that as it may
- **B)** furthermore
- **C)** by the same token

Blank 2

- **A)** inasmuch as
- **B)** notwithstanding
- **C)** nevertheless

Blank 3

- **A)** albeit
- **B)** conversely
- **C)** namely

7. Complete the frustrated time-traveler's mission log by selecting the best option for each blank.

The medieval villagers were surprisingly welcoming, _____ highly suspicious of my glowing smartphone. _____, I couldn't risk altering history any further. I needed to blend in immediately. _____, I traded the device for three chickens and a burlap cloak.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** albeit
- **B)** notwithstanding
- **C)** nevertheless

Blank 2

- **A)** Be that as it may
- **B)** Inasmuch as
- **C)** By the same token

Blank 3

- **A)** To that end
- **B)** In retrospect
- **C)** Conversely

8. Choose the perfect word to complete the food critic's review of a new, highly experimental restaurant.

The avant-garde chef's decision to serve the chocolate mousse inside a vintage leather shoe was certainly memorable, _____ highly unsanitary.

Select one.

- **A)** inasmuch as
- **B)** albeit
- **C)** lest
- **D)** henceforth

9. Help the office manager complete this slightly unhinged company-wide email about the new office pet.

We are thrilled to welcome Sir Fluffs-a-Lot to the accounting team. _____ he is a cat, his spreadsheet skills are understandably limited. _____, his morale-boosting abilities are absolutely off the charts. Management has noticed a 20% increase in productivity since his arrival. _____, we are officially promoting him to Chief Feline Officer.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** Inasmuch as
- **B)** Notwithstanding
- **C)** Albeit

Blank 2

- **A)** That being said
- **B)** By the same token
- **C)** Consequently

Blank 3

- **A)** Accordingly
- **B)** Conversely
- **C)** Be that as it may

10. A rather unlucky time traveler has kept a diary of their accidental trip to the dinosaur age. Choose the appropriate advanced discourse markers for each gap to complete their frantic entry.

My time machine's navigation system is completely fried, which is problematic _____ I lack the necessary tools to repair it.

The local T-Rex hasn't tried to eat me yet, but _____, I haven't given it any reason to notice me.

I am currently stranded in the Cretaceous period and, _____, entirely doomed unless the backup generator kicks in.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** insofar as
- **B)** notwithstanding
- **C)** conversely

Blank 2

- **A)** by the same token
- **B)** subsequently
- **C)** consequently

Blank 3

- **A)** to all intents and purposes
- **B)** by and large
- **C)** on the contrary