

11. Her last will and testament was \_\_\_\_\_ her eldest son was to inherit all the property. (= essentially that.)
12. Vandalism is the outcome of social problems as much as it is a social problem in itself. \_\_\_\_\_ it has received special attention from sociologists.
13. Just look at what some pensioners are receiving — £30 per week! \_\_\_\_\_ they did not have to spend any of it on rent, heating, or rates. How on earth can anyone survive on so little?
14. She claims to be honest. Why, \_\_\_\_\_, has she not paid the money back?
15. \_\_\_\_\_, it's illegal, but this time I'll let you keep the extra bottle of whiskey.
16. By the year 1993 the country was badly in need of political stability. \_\_\_\_\_, the politicians had spent the previous years arguing about trivial matters.
17. Her remarks were \_\_\_\_\_ all her colleagues were incompetent.
18. Considerations of space preclude any more detailed discussion of the Sarmatians. \_\_\_\_\_, Herodotus' account of their customs is largely borne out by archeology.
19. It's no good making the situation worse: things are bad enough \_\_\_\_\_
20. He told her to shut up, or \_\_\_\_\_.

As with all the items in this book, discourse markers are not to be overused: while good English is impossible without them, it is a mistake to think that the more they appear in an essay or article, the better the language will be.

## Word-Order

In this area more than any other the importance of long exposure to the living language becomes manifest. If the student of English does not have the advantage of having lived in an English-speaking environment for many years, then the next best thing is regular, preferably daily, reading of English books and magazines.

But whatever the degree of exposure to English, it is good to be aware of some of the rules governing English word-order. The following makes no claim to exhaustiveness:

### Position of Adjectives

In English most adjectives are able to go in two places in a sentence:

1. with a noun (known as the *attributive* position), e.g.

A *nice* couple live next door.  
I like *old* books.

2. after the verbs *be*, *become*, *look* and a few others (known as the *predicative* position), e.g.

He's not very *clever*.  
You look *ill*.  
The weather's turning *nasty*.

Some adjectives, however, are only able to go in one or the other position. Others change their meaning, depending on whether they are in the attributive or the predicative position.

- 2a. Adjectives which are able to go only in the attributive position:

chief  
elder, eldest