

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.

Schlieffen Fails

5. Conjunctions II – but, yet, however, instead, whereas, although, even though, 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:

“The Schlieffen Plan did not stalemate, but was a victim of the factors that precluded a war of movement.”

I have used the simplest contrastive conjunction – 'but'. Taking with a friend, try out other contrastive conjunctions. Some of them subtly change the meaning of the sentence – talk about how. Others do not work at all – why?

2. Choose which contrastive conjunction other than 'but' you might use in the following sentence:

- The Germans believed the 'big talk' of their over-confident generals, _____ war plan that was bound to fail from the start.

3. Complete the following sentences choosing an appropriate contrastive conjunction to highlight a contrast:

- Belgium _____, <contrastive conjunction> _____.
- *Schrecklichkeit* _____, <contrastive conjunction> _____.
- A BEF force of 80,000 men _____, <contrastive conjunction> _____.
- The German Army _____, <contrastive conjunction> _____.
- The Russian Army _____, <contrastive conjunction> _____.
- Joffre _____, <contrastive conjunction> _____.

4. Using an appropriate contrastive conjunction, create six sentences to complete the following:

- The Schlieffen Plan _____.

5. Use the information on the webpage to create a sentence using the following contrastive conjunctions:

- instead
- whereas
- although
- even though
- by contrast
- on the other hand
- on the contrary