

118 Correcting and changing the subject

Set words and phrases can be used to correct someone, disagree, change the subject, or concede a point. They often come at the beginning of the sentence.

See also:

More linking words **112** Deciding and hedging **119** Making conversation **120**

118.1 CORRECTING AND DISAGREEING

Certain words can be used to show you disagree with someone or to correct a misunderstanding.



I don't think this painting is worth that much.

Wow! Do you like it?



Actually, it sold at auction for \$2 million.

I don't, **actually**. It's not very impressive.

TIP

These phrases can appear impolite if spoken with heavy emphasis.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

That play was really good, wasn't it?

Well, I found the plot quite hard to follow, **to be honest**.

But the actors were excellent!



I'm afraid I don't think so. I thought they were terrible.

Did you enjoy the book I gave you?

Actually, I found it quite boring.

Really? It's so well written!



I don't agree. I prefer thrillers.

118.2 CHANGING SUBJECT

"By the way" shows a change of subject.



I think this gallery is fantastic.
Oh, **by the way**, did you read the article about this exhibit in *The Times*?

"As I was saying" returns to a previous subject after a change of subject or an interruption.



As I was saying, this is a fantastic exhibit. I really like the range of artwork.

"Anyway" returns to a subject after an interruption or a change in subject. It can also end a subject or a conversation.

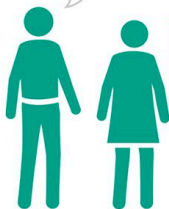


Anyway, I should say goodbye. I want to visit the gallery shop before it closes.

118.3 CONCEDED A POINT

Certain words can be used to agree to, or concede, a point, particularly after first doubting it to be true.

I told you this museum is very expensive.



You're right! I expected it to be cheaper.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I think this sculpture is made of stone.



You have a good point. At first I thought it was metal.

This painting could be by Picasso.



I see your point. The style is similar.