

A **BUILDING BRICK** is a frequently occurring word or phrase in any kind of text, regardless of its topic. If you learn these bricks, they will prove useful not only in reading comprehension, but they are vital elements in a well-constructed text

Many of the bricks are most likely to be met in an argumentative text.

Words to build an argument:

A Some opinion phrases

- in my opinion
- to my mind
- as I see it
- I strongly believe that
- I'm positive that
- I 'm convinced that
- In my experience
- it's a general opinion
- it is a universally accepted view
- few would disagree on ..
- there is widespread consensus about
- there are exceptions of course, but

B Giving examples

- for example
- a case in point
- an excellent example of this is
- to illustrate my / his point

C Verbs to state your argument (väittää)

- argue
- claim
- assert
- maintain (fml) (*vakuuttaa*)
- allege
- contend (fml)

D Other verbs

- discuss + O
- consider / ponder / reflect
- consider + O / regard as
- criticise
- object to
- suggest
- point out / stress / emphasise
- indicate
- define
- assess / evaluate
- base on
- be based on
- describe
- illustrate
- convey
- increase
- decrease
- diminish
- reduce
- to be reduced
- decline
- improve
- enhance
- influence + O / affect + O
- contribute to
- keskustella
- harkita
- pitää jtk jkn
- Music is often considered to have healing powers.*
- arvostella, esittää kritiikkiä
- vastustaa
- ehdottaa, esittää
- korostaa
- osoittaa, viittaa jhkn suuntaan
- määritellä
- arvioida
- perustaa
- perustua
- kuvailla
- havainnollistaa
- välittää (ajatus muille)
- lisääntyä
- vähentyä
- vähetä, pienetä
- vähentää
- vähentyä
- heikentyä, rappeutua
- kehittyä, parantua
- lisätä, kohottaa, tehostaa
- vaikuttaa
- myötävaikuttaa (*antaa apua*)

E Nouns

- research
- survey
- assumption / presumption / hypothesis/
- definition
- concept
- conclusion
- notion / conception
- aspect

- view, viewpoint, point-of-view
- agreement / disagreement
- controversy
- dispute
- consensus
- effort
- influence on /effect on / impact on sth
- issue

tutkimus
selvitys
oletus
määritelmä
käsite
johtopäätös
käsitys jstkn asiasta
asian 'puoli'
It is an interesting aspect of Finnish culture that silence is a positive marker.
näkökulma
yksimielisyys / erimielisyys
ristiriita, kiista
kiista
yksimielisyys
pyrkimys, yrittäminen
vaikutus
asia / riitakysymys

Adverbs and adverbial phrases

actually / in fact / practically

In reality

paradoxically

controversially

unfortunately

to put it in brief

in spite of the fact that

despite

instead of

apart from

to some extent

But then again,

in this respect

contrary to

in accordance with

according to

often – seldom:

I often forget a name, but seldom a face and never an interesting personality.

It is rare that burglars resort to violence in Finland. It happens rarely.

It is not infrequently that the police have to take intoxicated people into custody.

itse asiassa

todellisuudessa.

paradoksaalisesti (*sis.sisäisen ristiriidan*)

kiistanalaisesti (*asiasta monta mieltä*)

valitettavasti

lyhyesti sanoen

huolimatta siitä, että

huolimatta

jkn sijaan

lukuunottamatta

jossain määrin

toisaalta

tässä suhteessa

vastoin jtk

Contrary to suspicions, he managed the job well.

jkn mukaisesti

(*jkn lähteen*) mukaan

Connective adverbials and conjunctions

- however
- nevertheless
- nonetheless
- yet
- still
- ,though
- for all that



ilmaisee vastakohtaa

- in addition
- besides
- furthermore
- moreover



ilmaisee lisäystä

- As a result
- consequently
- due to
- in conclusion
- to sum up



*ilmaisee seurausta
tai lopputulosta*

Intensifiers and other frequently occurring adverbs

- hardly
- scarcely
- barely

tuskin

- quite
- rather
- fairly
- somewhat

aika, melko

- entirely
- completely
- totally
- wholly
- perfectly

täydelleen

täydellisesti, ilman puutteita
The dress fits you perfectly.

- remarkably
- noticeably
- markedly

huomattavasti

- relatively
- gradually
- literally
- obviously
- apparently
- merely
- definitely
- substantially
- precisely

suhteellisen
vähitellen
kirjaimellisesti
ilmeisesti
ilmeisesti, nähtävästi
pelkästään
ehdottomasti
tuntuvasti
tismalleen

A sample text where the *italicised* elements could be used be the topic whatever!

It has been suggested that course tests should be abolished. *However,* the *issue is controversial, to some extent at least.* *Some researchers have claimed that this would result in* falling standards in education. *Others have pointed out that tests frequently only generate* anxiety *and, consequently, decrease* the ability to learn. *This view is in sharp contrast to the one expressed* by Prof. Ridley, who *maintains* that pre-test stress enhances learning *considerably.* *To illustrate his point, he compares* school to sporting events, where it is precisely the will to win that makes the competitors perform to their best ability.