Preparation for the finals

BUILDING BRICKS

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 mostlikely 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

B Giving examples

- for example
- a case in point
- C Verbs to state your argument (väittää)
 - argue
 - claim
 - assert
 - maintain (fml) (vakuuttaa)

- 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
- an excellent example of this is
- to illustrate my / his point
- 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

researchsurvey

assumption / presumption / hypothesis/

definitionconceptconclusion

notion / conception

aspect

view, viewpoint, point-of-view

• agreement / diagreement

controversydispute

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

itse asiassa

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

todellisuudessa. paradoksaalises kiistanalaisesti *(*a

paradoksaalisesti *(sis.sisäisen ristiriidan)* kiistanalaisesti *(asiasta monta mieltä)*

valitettavasti lyhyesti sanoen huolimatta siitä, että

huolimatta jkn sijaan lukuunottamatta jossain määrin toisaalta

tässä suhteessa vastoin itk

Contrary to suspicions, he managed the

job well.

jkn mukaisesti (jkn lähteen) mukaan

often – seldom:

I <u>often</u> forget a name, but <u>seldom</u> a face and never an interesting personality. It is rare that burglars resort to violence in Finland. It happens rarely.

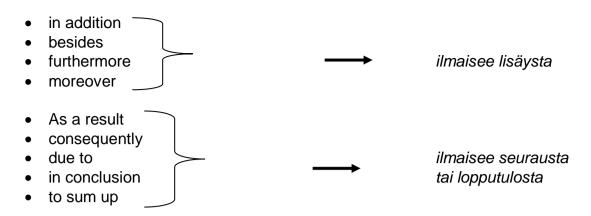
It is not infrequently that the police have to take intoxicated people into custody.

Connective adverbials and conjunctions

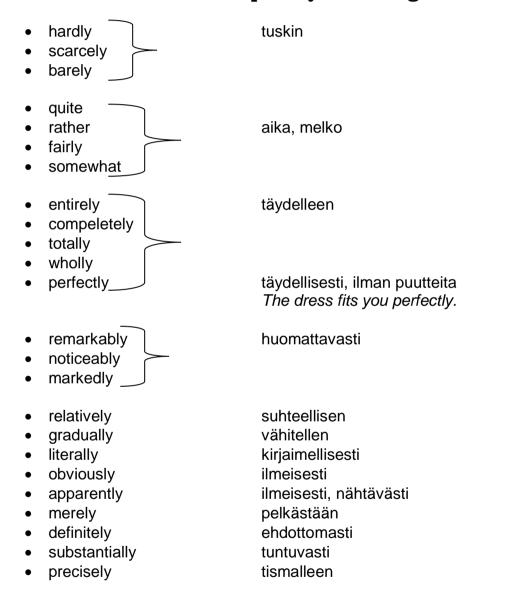
- however
- nevertheless
- nonetheless
- yet
- still
- though
- for all that

ilmaisee vastakohtaa

2



Intensifiers and other frequently occurring adverbs



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.