

## 1 LOOKING AT LANGUAGE

## discourse markers

Complete the sentences with a discourse marker from the list.

anyway	apparently	as to	basically
I mean	in a way	of course	really

- My sister gets lonely in the evenings. Of course her husband's around, but he's always falling asleep in front of the TV.
- I can't remember much about my childhood. \_\_\_\_\_, I spent most of the time running around with the other kids in my neighborhood. That's what my mom tells me, anyway.
- My nephew's such a sweet boy. But \_\_\_\_\_ what he wants to do in the future, he doesn't have a clue.
- We've had a great vacation but \_\_\_\_\_, I'm glad to be going home. I've missed the cat!
- If I have to take my daughter to work, I \_\_\_\_\_ do the same as I would on a normal day.
- That woman isn't \_\_\_\_\_ her mother; she's her stepmother.
- I'm hoping to move out soon. \_\_\_\_\_, I love my parents, but I'd like a place of my own.
- I'm not going to apply for that job. It's too far away and \_\_\_\_\_, the pay is too low.

## 2 READING

- a Read the article. Five sentences have been removed from it. Match the sentences A–F to the blanks 1–5. There is one sentence you do not need to use.

- A This gives them the chance to learn from each others' experiences, and also to reflect more profoundly on their own.
- B The idea is that all daughters and sons should be able to participate.
- C Each year, a theme is chosen for the event, and a new logo is designed for the T-shirts worn by participants.
- D The success of the event is reflected in the well over twenty years in which it has been running.
- E After that, they should spend the rest of the day shadowing their mother or father in all that they do.
- F Too often, this led to them dropping out of school early.

- b Underline five words or phrases you don't know. Use your dictionary to look up their meaning and pronunciation.



## Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Many parents would probably agree that work and family life are not always easy to balance. Not so the 37 million US employees who take part each year in the *Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day*. On this day, the fourth Thursday in April, parents in over 3.5 million companies take their children into work to give them a taste of just what it is their parents do all day long. <sup>1</sup> Today, it is now regarded as a kind of national institution.

The program has not always catered for both boys and girls. It was originally conceived in 1993 by the non-profit organization *Ms. Foundation for Women* as the *Take Our Daughters to Work Day*. In the early 1990s, research had revealed that schoolgirls were often lacking the confidence they needed to succeed. <sup>2</sup> It was hoped that the event would show them the importance of finishing their education and what they could achieve if they did so. By 2003, it had become apparent that boys were suffering a similar lack of self-esteem, and so they were also incorporated into the program, which changed its name accordingly.

The *Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day* takes place on a school day, because it is a valuable educational experience. In class the next day, students are expected to share news from their day at the office with their classmates. <sup>3</sup> Older students taking part in the program, aimed primarily at eight- to 18-year-olds, can get a good idea of the attitude and behavior common to the workplace, which helps prepare them for any part-time jobs they might do in the future.

Parents are encouraged to enhance their child's experience by preparing carefully for the day beforehand. The organizers recommend discussing the day before and after the child is brought to work so that they get as much as possible out of their visit. According to employees who have already taken part in the program, children should be introduced to their parent's colleagues to get an insight into how the team works. <sup>4</sup> In some cases, companies plan special activities, which make the day more interactive and memorable for the children, and give parents a chance to catch up on any urgent work alone.

It is not only the children of employees that the program is aimed at, hence its name: *Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work*. <sup>5</sup> This means that workers may invite the children of friends, relatives, neighbors, or even children from residential homes to accompany them. The main aim is to expose as many schoolchildren as possible to the world of work in the hope that it will give them a goal in life to work towards and help them land their dream job.