

Tools for Scripture Meditation and Study

- **Repeated words/phrases**

Often repeated words or phrases are there for emphasis/focus: notice them.

- **Comparisons and Contrasts**

- Comparison: Something that is similar. Marked by words "like, as, similarly, likewise."

Example: He eats like a horse.

- Contrast: Anything that is opposite.

Example: She is tall, but her sister is short.

- **Conjunctions (transition words)**

- Contrast: "But," "On the one hand," "On the other hand"

These words often mark a shift in thought or a change to making a different point.

Example: "The weather outside is gorgeous today, but it is going to snow tomorrow."

- Ground/Basis/Causal: "For," "Because," "Since"

These words are dependent on another thought and provide evidence for a main point.

Example: "Pizza Hut makes the best pizza, because the sauce is amazing."

The main point is that Pizza Hut makes the best pizza and "because" introduces the supporting reason that the sauce is amazing.

- Inference: "Therefore," "As a result," "Consequently"

When you see "therefore", always ask "what is it there for?" Look back to see what conclusion it is drawing, what it is summarizing. Often introduces main points.

Example: "The Chiefs have Patrick Mahomes as their quarterback. The other NFL teams have mediocre quarterbacks. Therefore, the Chiefs are likely to win the Super Bowl."

- Purpose or Result: "So that," "that," "In order that"

These words signal the purpose or result of a sentence, or sometimes a mixture of purpose and result.

Example: "The boss gave the employee a raise, so that she would work harder." (Purpose).

Example: "The boss complimented the employee, so that he was motivated to work harder." (Result)

- **Feelings or Emotions words**

What feelings or emotions words are used or implied?

- **Words you don't understand**

Take a few minutes to look them up.