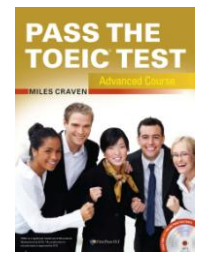
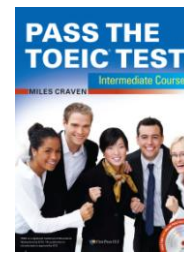
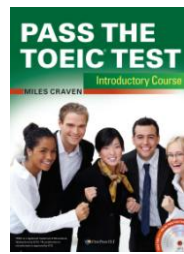


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Listening Links

Signposts are short phrases that link ideas or sections in a talk. Recognizing these signposts while you are listening can help you to follow the structure of talks in Part 4 of the TOEIC test.

Exercise 1

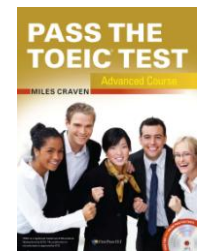
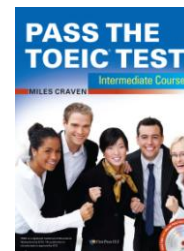
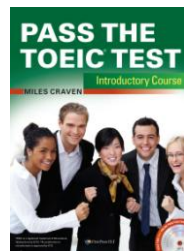
Match each function (1-10) with the correct group of signposts (a-j).

Function	Signposts
1. Introducing the topic	a. Let's consider this in more detail. So, let's examine this more closely.
2. Outlining the structure of the talk	b. In conclusion,... / To sum up,... / To recap the main points,... Let's summarize briefly what we've looked at.
3. Listing several points	c. I'd like to move on to... / Let's turn now to... Now let's look at...
4. Explaining consequences	d. In other words,... / To put it another way,... What I'm getting at is...
5. Finishing one point	e. Well, that's all I have to say about... / So much for... We've looked at... / I've told you about...
6. Moving on to a new point	f. The focus of this presentation is... Today, I'm going to talk to you about...
7. Clarifying a point	g. This is why... / Therefore... As a result...
8. Giving examples	h. First of all,... / I'd like to start by... Then I'll move on to... / Next,... / After that,... / I'll finish by...
9. Analyzing a point in more detail	i. For example,... / For instance,... / To give you an example,... A good example of this is... / To illustrate this point,...
10. Summarizing/Concluding	j. First,... / Second,... / Third,... / Last,... In addition,... / Finally,...

1. ___ 2. ___ 3. ___ 4. ___ 5. ___ 6. ___ 7. ___ 8. ___ 9. ___ 10. ___

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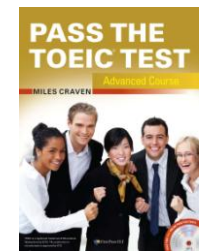
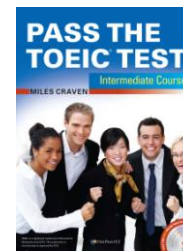
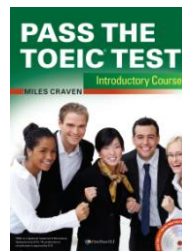
Exercise 2

Underline the signposts in this talk.

“OK, so I’m going to tell you about the new DX4 packaging machine. I’d like to start by reviewing the main benefits. This award-winning packaging machine features the very latest in technology, and has a number of outstanding features. First of all, you’ll notice the speed. The DX4 is the fastest on the market. To give you an example, it can pack 100 cereal boxes per minute, and takes just two minutes to pack an entire pallet of household cleaning products ready for shipment. Second, it’s very versatile. The DX4 can multipack up to three separate products together in one bundle, which is a clear advantage for multi-buy and ‘buy one get one free’ offers. And finally, I must point out that the running costs of the DX4 are far lower than those of its nearest rivals. Well, that’s all I have to say about the advantages. Any questions so far? OK, so now let’s look at price. The DX4 retails at \$28,000, but this month we are offering a significant discount on purchases of two or more machines. As a result, for those of you who take advantage of this great offer, potentially the DX4 could actually pay for itself in less than two years. To sum up, then, I have talked about the advantages and the price. So all we need now are your orders!”

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Answers

Exercise 1: 1. f, 2. h, 3. j, 4. g, 5. e, 6. c, 7. d, 8. i, 9. a, 10. b

Exercise 2: I'm going to tell you about / I'd like to start by / First of all / To give you an example / Second finally / Well, that's all I have to say about / now let's look at / As a result / To sum up

Expansion activity

Go to www.ted.com/talks. Choose a talk on a topic you are interested in. Then listen and notice any signposts the speaker uses.

- Some talks are longer than others. You can choose the length of the talks you listen to, from as little as 3 minutes.
- For many talks you can also read the audioscript by clicking "Show transcript" below the video.