

# WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

## The Revolution of 1905

### 8. Conjunctions II – but, yet, however, even though, instead, whereas, although by contrast, on the other hand, on the contrary

The contrastive conjunctions 'but', 'yet', 'however', 'even though', 'instead', 'by contrast', 'on the other hand', 'on the contrary' are going to be of use to students as they do their source comparison' questions, and especially important for AQA students as they do the 'which was the more important reason' question.

Because they introduce contrasting or contradictory information, they will allow you to qualify your statements, and avoid sentences which are too one-sided.

The webpage dealing with the Causes, Events and Outcomes of the 1905 Revolution identifies numerous examples of contrastive conjunctions.

1. We might identify the first in the following sentence:

“Nicholas noted the “disgusting impression” left by the news on “this sad national holiday” ...  
but still went ahead with the evening’s ball.”

In this sentence I chose to use the contrastive conjunction: 'but'. Identify in the sentence:

<the opening statement>, <the contrastive conjunction>, <the qualifying comment>.

Can you think of a better conjunction than 'but' – explain your choice.

2. A simple CTRL+F search for 'but ' will find 12 instances of the use of the word 'but'. Locating them all, explain for each one how it has been used to contrast, contradict or qualify the opening statement

3. Devise at least five more sentences choosing an appropriate contrastive conjunction to introduce a qualifying comment using the framework:

<opening statement>, <contrastive conjunction>, <qualifying comment>

- Nicholas gained a reputation of not caring about his people \_\_\_\_\_ the victims' families were compensated financially.
- The number of factory inspectors was increased, \_\_\_\_\_ .
- \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .
- \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .
- \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .