Language for Thinking

1. Defining

What is a…?
Give me definition of a…
How would you define a…?
Who can define/give me a definition of…?
Can anyone give me a definition of…?
What do we call this?
What is the name/(technical) term for this?

Let's take an example
Let me give you an example
One example of this is…

For example
For instance

(A)	………..	is a	(generic term) place person thing concept entity device instrument tool etc	where who which that	………….

… is called …
The term/name for this is…
We call this…

2. Classifying

How would you classify…?
How many kinds of …are there?
Who can classify…?
We/you/one can classify … according to …criteria
This class has…characteristics/features

There are	three	kinds types forms classes categories	of	……………..
……………..	fall		into	three	kinds types classes categories
……………..	can be	divided classified	into	three	kinds types classes categories

3. Illustrating/Exemplifying

What is an example of this?
Give me an example (of this)?
Who can give me an example (of this)?

4. Contrasting

In what way/how is …different from …?
How does …differ from…?
How can one/we/you distinguish …from…?

…is unlike… …is different from… …differs from … One can distinguish…from…	in that… in so far as…
	in …respects: (firstly, etc)

…although… (subordinate clauses)
…though…   (ditto   )

….whereas… (main clauses)
… but….   (ditto   )

However
But
Neverthless
On the one hand, on the other hand

It is true that… Nevertheless…
Admittedly… Nevertheless

5.   Comparing

In what way is …similar to…?
What similarities are there/can you see between…and …?

…is like …(in that/in so far as…)
…is similar to… (in that/in
…and …are similar (in that/in so far is…)

6.   Giving reasons

Why?
Why does/did…?
Who can tell me why…?
What is/was the reason for that?
Give me a reason for that
What will/would happen if…happens/happened?

This is/was because…
The reason for this is that…
There are three reasons for this
This is/was due to…

If…happens, (then) … will happen
When…happens, (then)… will happen
Because…happens, then …will happen
This means that…will happen

So
Therefore
Thus
For this reason
That is why

7.   Predicting

I predict that … will happen
… will happen

If…happens, (then) … will happen
When…happens, (then)… will happen
Because…happens, then …will happen
This means that…will happen

… will not happen, unless …happens
… will not happen, if … does not happen

8.   Summarising

Who can summarise (what we have said)?
What have we said
What are the main points we have made?

So what we have said is…
So let's summarise.
Let me summarise/sum up
Let's summarise/sum up
So…
So you see…
So, we have said…
The main points we have made are…

9.   Hypothesising

What will happen, if …happens?
What would happen if…happened?
What could/might happen, if …happened?
What would have happened, if …happened?

If…happens, …will (future, certain)
If… happens,… may/might/could happen (future, possible)
If …happened, …would happen (future, possible)
If …had happened, …would have happened (past, speculative)

Unless … happens, …will not happen
If… does not happen, …will not happen

Assuming…happened, …would happen.

Imagine (you are/there is…etc)

10. Time sequence/process

First
Then, after that, next
Eventually

Finally

11. Listing

I want to make three points
There are three reasons…
Etc

Firstly, secondly, thirdly, fourthly…finally/lastly
First, second, third, fourth…finally/last

12. Adding

Moreover
Furthermore
In addition

And another thing…

13. Apposition

Let me put this another way
Another way of putting this is…

In other words
Namely

14. Drawing conclusions/deducing

What can we/you/one conclude from this?
What do we/you conclude from this?
What conclusions can we draw from this?

If…is (the case), what must …be/do etc?
If this was the case, what must…have been/done etc?

I/we conclude from this that…
I/we/one can conclude…
One can draw two conclusions from this…(firstly,…)

If …is (the case), …must be …
If….was the case,…must have been …
If…is not the case, …cannot be…
If … was not the case, …cannot have been…

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