

Discourse Markers Labeling Guidelines

- Most of the labels are defined using *okay*, but the definitions hold for all of these words: *alright*, *gotcha*, *huh*, *mmhm*, *okay*, *right*, *uhhuh*, *yeah*, *yep*, *yes*, *yup*.
- If you really cannot decide between two plausible labels, you may enter both of them, separated by comma (e.g., "A1,N").
- If you really have no clue about the function of a word, label it as "?".

N Literal Modifiers:

In this case the words are used as modifiers. Examples:

- "I think that's *okay*."
- "It's *right* between the mermaid and the car."
- "Yeah, that's *right*."

A1 Acknowledge/Agreement:

The function of *okay* that indicates "I believe what you said", and/or "I agree with what you say". This label should also be used for *okay* after another *okay* or after an evaluative comment like "Great" or "Fine" in its role as an acknowledgement.

Examples:

A: Do you have a blue moon?
B: *Yeah*.
A: Then move it to the left of the yellow mermaid.
B: *Okay, gotcha*. Let's see... (Here, both *okay* and *gotcha* are labeled "A1").

A1X Acknowledge/Agreement in response to the Computer:

For example, the computer shows a score and the subject responds *okay* to that event.

Example:

<Computer shows a score of "92">
B: *Okay*.

C Cue Beginning:

The function of *okay* that marks a new segment of a discourse or a new topic. **Test:** could this use of *okay* be replaced by "Now"?

P Pivot Beginning: (A1+C)

When *okay* functions as both a cue word and as an Acknowledge/Agreement. **Test:** Can *okay* be replaced by "Okay now" with the same pragmatic meaning?

PX (A1X+C)

E Cue Ending:

The function of *okay* that marks the end of a current segment of a discourse or a current topic.

F Pivot Ending: (A1+E)

When *okay* functions as both a cue word and as an Acknowledge/Agreement, but **ends** a discourse segment.

FX (A1X+E)**A2 Backchannel:**

The function of *okay* in response to another speaker's utterance that indicates only "I'm still here / I hear you and please continue".

S Stall:

Okay used to stall for time while keeping the floor. **Test:** Can *okay* be replaced by an elongated "Um" or "Uh" with the same pragmatic meaning? "So I *yeah* I think we should go together."

K Check:

Okay used with the meaning "Is that okay?" or "Is everything okay?". For example, "I'm stopping now, okay?"

B Back:

"I've just finished what I was doing and I'm back". Typical case: one subject spends some time thinking, and then signals s/he is ready to continue the discourse.

Special cases

- "okay so" / "okay now" / "okay then" / etc., where both words are uttered together, "okay" seems to convey **A1**, and "so" / "now" / "then" seems to convey **C**. Since we do not label words like "so", "now" or "then", we label "okay" as **P**.
- If you encounter a rapid sequence of the same word several times in a row, all of them uttered in one "burst" of breath, mark only the first one the corresponding label, and label the others with "?".
Example: "okay yeah yeah yeah" should be labeled as: "okay[A1] yeah[A1] yeah[?] yeah[?]"