French Linking Terms

The following terms will help you polish your written and spoken French. Use them when describing an event or retelling a story and it will be necessary that you **MEMORIZE** them to improve your fluency in the French Language.

a) **When you are about to recount an event, the following terms are important to know:**
   a) *à priori*: to begin with (used in conversation)
      i) This phrase is often used when recounting an event.
         (1) Example: *A priori, je ne pensais pas que le problem soit très grave mais je ne sais pas si les choses vont changer.*
         (2) Example: *A priori les deux petites filles semblaient perdues, mais ells ont retrouvé le bon chemin*
   b) *pour commencer*: to begin with
   c) *d'abord*: first
   d) *au commencement*: in the beginning
   e) *au débout de l'histoire*: at the beginning of the story
   f) *il était une fois*: once upon a time

b) **To proceed from one event to the next, the following terms are important to remember:**
   a) *et puis:* and then
   b) *ensuite*: then, afterward, next
   c) *soudain*: suddenly, all of the sudden
   d) *tout à coup*: all of the sudden
   e) *alors*: then, so

c) **To conclude your story, remember the following terms**:
   a) *à la fin*: at the end
   b) *enfin*: finally
   c) *pour finir*: all in all, to conclude
   d) *pour terminer*: to finish
   e) *bref*: in short
   f) *en somme*: to sum it up

d) **To express an opposition use the following terms**:
   a) *Cependant: however, yet*
      (1) Example: *Personne n'a cru Jean-Pierre; il disait cependant la vérité.*
   b) *pourtant*: but, yet
      (1) Example: *La mer rest très froid; pourtant je veux nager.*
   c) *néanmoins*: nevertheless
   d) *en revanche*: however
   e) *par contre*: however
   f) *bien que*: although
   g) *malgré que*: although
   h) *malgré*: despite, in spite
   i) *même su*: even though, even if

e) **When you want to link a general idea to a specific example use**:
   a) *d'ailleurs*: as a matter of fact

f) **To insist on an idea, to confirm something, or to give a reason, use the following terms:**
   a) *en plus:* moreover, in addition
   b) *en fait:* in fact, actually
   c) *afin que:* so that
   d) *pour que:* in order to
   e) *afin de (français écrit):* in order to

g) **To give a cause for an action:**
   a) *à cause de:* because of
   b) *parce que:* because
   c) *car (français écrit):* because
      (1) Example: *Le roi était bien triste, car il ne savait plus quoi faire.*

h) **To explain the effect or the result of an action, use the following terms:**
   a) *sinon:* otherwise
   b) *par conséquent:* consequently
   c) *donc:* thus, therefore
   d) *de ce fait:* as a result (used when writing only)
   e) *ainsi:* thus, therefore (used in French writing)
   f) *forcément:* as an obvious consequence
   g) *en vain:* in vain
   h) *à force de:* by dint of

i) **When you want to link or compare one idea to another:**
   a) *précisément:* precisely
   b) *par rapport à:* in relation to, compared to

j) **When agreeing use the following terms:**
   a) *volontiers:* willingly, gladly
      i) Example: *Cécile: Veux-tu m'accompagner au cinéma? Hélène: Volontiers, mais il faut que tu m'attendes quelques minutes.*