

Linking words and phrases

Using linking words within and between sentences and paragraphs helps to make your writing flow logically. These words act as signposts, assisting your reader to move easily from one idea to the next, and to see relationships between sentences or paragraphs. Linking words are particularly useful for indicating that you are going to explain something, to give an example or to use a time sequence, or to offer a contrasting view.

To give an example

For example For instance To illustrate such as

To show order of time or importance

First, Second etc First of all Then Next Afterwards

Finally Subsequently Recently

At the same time In the meantime Sometimes Preceding this

Until

To offer a contrast

However In contrast Nevertheless On the contrary On the other hand Alternatively Despite this Although

To show similarity

Likewise Similarly

To express causality

Accordingly Consequently For this reason

To emphasise something

Above all Certainly Clearly Indeed In fact Obviously

To amplify

Again Also Apparently Equally important **Furthermore** In addition Moreover

To introduce detail

Especially In particular Specifically Namely

Finally

To interpret something

Fortunately (unfortunately) Interestingly Surprisingly (unsurprisingly) Significantly

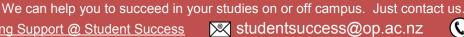
To generalise

On the whole In general Generally speaking Broadly speaking

To conclude

To summarise In conclusion

Adapted from Silyn-Roberts, H. (1996). Writing for science. Auckland, NZ: Addison Wesley Longman.







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Linking Words and Phrases for beginning new paragraphs

At the beginning of each paragraph, you should aim to provide a clear topic sentence that tells the reader the subject of the paragraph, and also *connects* the paragraph with the previous paragraph or the main topic of the assignment. The following words and expressions are frequently used as paragraph openers and linking expressions. Read through the list and see if you can find useful ones for your own writing.

- First(ly), second(ly)....
- Essentially....
-has been defined as..... by......()
- The major concern....
- Another important concern....
- Another aspect of....
- Comparing this with....
- In comparison / contrast...
- Like....
- Unlike.....
- A leading idea / principle / opinion
- It is important to.....
- The main themes (factors/elements/ aspects) are:
- Views on... range from....to....
- The advantages of....
- The disadvantages of....
- The evidence shows / suggests that....
- It is apparent that....
- It is clear that....

- A clear case for....
- In practice....
- Whereas....
- The traditional interpretation
- It can be seen that....
- All these factors contribute to....
- Essentially....
- Nevertheless....
- Thus it is....
- Accordingly....
- Another essential point....
- After examining.....
- Basically.....
- Specifically....
- In summary...
- Finally....
- One could conclude....
- In conclusion....

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For information (and a video) on how to make your writing flow go HERE (http://owll.massey.ac.nz/assignment-types/essay-flow.php)



For a larger list of linking (transition) words and phrases go HERE

(http://www.smart-words.org/linking-words/transition-words.html)