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Academic Phrasebank

Time Management



Defining Terms

Simple three-part definitions

A university is	an institution	where knowledge is produced and passed on to others
Social Economics may be defined as	the branch of economics	[which is] concerned with the measurement, causes, and consequences of social problems.
Research may be defined as	a systematic process	which consists of three elements or components: (1) a question, problem, or hypothesis, (2) data, and (3) analysis and interpretation of data.
Braille is	a system	of touch reading and writing for blind people in which raised dots on paper represent the letters of the alphabet.

General meanings or application of meanings

The term X refers to ...
The term X encompasses A), B), and C).
X can be defined as ... It encompasses ...
X can be loosely described as a correlation.
The term X has come to be used to refer to ...
The term X is generally understood to mean ...
The term X has been applied to situations where students ...
In the literature, the term tends to be used to refer to ...
The broad use of the term X is sometimes equated with ...
Whereas X refers to the operations of ..., Y refers to the ...
The term disease refers to a biological event characterised by ...
The term X is a relatively new name for a Y, commonly referred to...
In broad biological terms, X can be defined as any stimulus that is ...
Defined as XYZ, obesity is now considered a worldwide epidemic and is associated with ...

Indicating difficulties in defining a term

A generally accepted definition of X is lacking.
Unfortunately, X remains a poorly defined term.
The term X embodies a multitude of concepts which ...
A further definition is given by Smith (1982) who describes ...
In the field of language teaching, various definitions of X are found.
Smith (2001) identified four abilities that might be subsumed under the term X: a) ...
Although differences of opinion still exist, there appears to be some agreement that X refers to ...
...
X is a commonly-used notion in language learning and yet it is a concept difficult to define precisely.

Specifying terms that are used in an essay or thesis

The term X will be used solely when referring to ...
In the present report, X was therefore defined in terms of ...
In this essay, the term X will be used in its broadest sense to refer to all ...
In this paper, the term that will be used to describe this phenomenon is X.
In this dissertation, the terms X and Y are used interchangeably to mean ...
Throughout this thesis, the term education is used to refer to informal systems as well as ...
While a variety of definitions of the term X have been suggested, this paper will use the definition first suggested by Smith (1968) who saw it as ...

Compare and Contrast

The screenshot shows the Academic Phrasebank website. The browser address bar displays www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/compare-and-contrast/. The page header includes the University of Manchester logo and navigation links: [Introducing Work](#), [Referring to Sources](#), [Describing Methods](#), [Reporting Results](#), [Discussing Findings](#), and [Writing Conclusions](#).

The main heading is **Compare and Contrast**. Below it, a text box explains the purpose: "By understanding similarities and differences between two things, we can increase our understanding and learn more about both. This usually involves a process of analysis, in which we compare the specific parts as well as the whole. Comparison may also be a preliminary stage of evaluation. For example, by comparing specific aspects of A and B, we can decide which is more useful or valuable. Many paragraphs whose function is to compare or contrast will begin with an introductory sentence expressed in general terms."

On the left, a sidebar lists general language functions: [Being Critical](#), [Being Cautious](#), [Classifying and Listing](#), [Compare and Contrast](#) (selected), [Defining Terms](#), [Describing Trends](#), [Describing Quantities](#), [Explaining Causality](#), [Giving Examples](#), [Signalling Transition](#), and [Writing about the Past](#).

Below the sidebar, there is a section titled "ABOUT PHRASEBANK" with a PDF download link and a Kindle download link.

The main content area includes two sections: "Introductory Sentences: Differences" and "Introductory Sentences: Similarities".

Introductory Sentences: Differences

Smith (2003)	found observed	distinct significant notable considerable major only slight	differences between X and Y.
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Jones (2013) found dramatic differences in the rate of decline of X between Y and Z. Areas where significant differences have been found include X and Y. The nervous systems of X are significantly different from those of Y in several key features.

Introductory Sentences: Similarities

The mode of processing used by the right brain	is similar to that is comparable to that is comparable in complexity to that	used by the left brain.
--	--	-------------------------

There are a number of similarities between X and Y. The effects of X on human health are similar to those of Y. Both X and Y generally take place in a 'safe environment'. Numerous studies have compared Xs in humans and animals and found that they are essentially identical.

Comparison within one sentence

Oral societies tend to be more concerned with the present	whereas while	literate societies have a very definite awareness of the past.
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At the bottom, there is a search bar with the text "Search" and a blue "search" button.

More Compare & Contrast



Search

Comparison within one sentence

Oral societies tend to be more concerned with the present

whereas
while

literate societies have a very definite awareness of the past.

Whereas
While

oral societies tend to be more concerned with the present,

literate societies have a very definite awareness of the past.

In contrast to oral communities, it is very difficult to get away from calendar time in literate societies.

Compared with people in oral cultures, people in literate cultures organise their lives around clocks and calendars.

This interpretation

contrasts with that differs from that is different from that

of Smith and Jones (2004) who argue that

Comparison within one sentence (comparative forms)

In the trial, women made fewer errors than men.

Women tend to have greater/less verbal fluency than men.

Adolescents are less likely to be put to sleep by alcohol than adults.

Women are faster/slower than men at certain precision manual tasks, such as ...

Women tend to perform better/worse than men on tests of perceptual speed.

Further, men are more/less accurate in tests of target-directed motor skills.

Women are more/less likely than men to suffer aphasia when the front part of the brain is damaged.

The corpus callosum, a part of the brain connecting the two hemispheres, may be more/less extensive in women.

Indicating difference across two sentences

It is very difficult to get away from calendar time in literate societies.

By contrast,
In contrast,
On the other hand,

many people in oral communities have little idea of the calendar year of their birth.

Indicating similarity across two sentences

Young children learning their first language need simplified input.

Similarly,
Likewise,
In the same way,

low level adult L2 learners need graded input supplied in most cases by a teacher.

Giving Examples



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Academic Phrasebank

The University of Manchester

Introducing Work

Referring to Sources

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GENERAL LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS

Being Critical

Being Cautious

Classifying and Listing

Compare and Contrast

Defining Terms

Describing Trends

Describing Quantities

Explaining Causality

Giving Examples

Signalling Transition

Writing about the Past

An enhanced and expanded version of this resource can now be downloaded in PDF:

ABOUT PHRASEBANK

Giving Examples

Writers may give specific examples as evidence to support their general claims or arguments. Examples can also be used to help the reader or listener understand unfamiliar or difficult concepts, and they tend to be easier to remember. For this reason, they are often used in teaching. Finally, students may be required to give examples in their work to demonstrate that they have understood a complex problem or concept. It is important to note that when statements are supported with examples, the explicit language signalling this may not always be used.

Examples as the main information in a sentence

A/An	well-known notable classic useful important	example of X is
------	---	-----------------------

For example, the word 'doctor' used to mean a 'learned man'.
For example, Smith and Jones (2004) conducted a series of semi-structured interviews in ...
Young people begin smoking for a variety of reasons. They may, for example, be influenced by

This is exemplified in the work undertaken by ...
Another example of what is meant by X is ...
This distinction is further exemplified in studies using ...
An example of this is the study carried out by Smith (2004) in which ...
The effectiveness of the X technique has been exemplified in a report by Smith et al (2010)

Important to signal these – they are worth extra marks, make it easy for the marker to find them in the text

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More Giving Examples

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....

This is exemplified in the work undertaken by ...
Another example of what is meant by X is ...
This distinction is further exemplified in studies using ...
An example of this is the study carried out by Smith (2004) in which ...
The effectiveness of the X technique has been exemplified in a report by Smith *et al.* (2010)

This is evident in the case of ...
This is certainly true in the case of ...
The evidence of X can be clearly seen in the case of ...
In a similar case in America, Smith (1992) identified ...
This can be seen in the case of the two London physics laboratories which ...

X is a good illustration of ...
X illustrates this point clearly.
This can be illustrated briefly by ...
By way of illustration, Smith (2003) shows how the data for ...
These experiments illustrate that X and Y have distinct functions in ...

Examples as additional information in a sentence

Young people begin smoking for a variety of reasons, such as pressure from peers and the role model of parents.
Pavlov found that if some other stimulus, for example the ringing of a bell, preceded the food, the dog would start salivating.
In Paris, Gassendi kept in close contact with many other prominent scholars, such as Kepler, Galileo, Hobbes, and Descartes.
The prices of resources, such as copper, iron ore, oil, coal and aluminium, have declined in real terms over the past 20 years.
Many diseases can result at least in part from stress, including: arthritis, asthma, migraine, headaches and ulcers.

Reporting cases as support

This case has shown that ...
This has been seen in the case of ...
The case reported here illustrates the ...
Overall, these cases support the view that ...
This case study confirms the importance of ...
The evidence presented thus far supports the idea that ...
This case demonstrates the need for better strategies for ...
As this case very clearly demonstrates, it is important that ...
This case reveals the need for further investigation in patients with ...
This case demonstrates how X used innovative marketing strategies in ...
Recent cases reported by Smith *et al.* (2013) also support the hypothesis that ...
In support of X, Y has been shown to induce Y in several cases (Smith *et al.*, 2001).

Giving Your Own Opinion



- Preface your personal content with a phrase that signals it is in fact, yours.
- Avoids thoughts of plagiarism
- This can be singular (my) or plural (our)
 - In my opinion
 - From my experience
 - My interpretation of this is
 - My assumptions are
 - Locally (in Canada, in the work place etc), I have observed

Being Cautious



Devices that distance the author from a proposition

It is believed that ...
It is thought that ...
It is a widely held view that ...
It has been reported that ...
It has commonly been assumed that ...

According to Smith (2002), ...
According to recent reports, ...
According to many in the field ...
Smith (2001) holds the view that ...
Many scholars hold the view that ...
Recent research has suggested that ...
There is some evidence to suggest that ...
If Smith's (2001) findings are accurate, ...

Being cautious when giving explanations or hypothesising

These frequent storms	are almost certainly are probably could be may be might be	due to climate change.
-----------------------	--	------------------------

It is almost certain that It is likely that It may be that It could be that It is possible that	the more extreme weather	is a result of climate change.
---	--------------------------	--------------------------------

A likely explanation A probable explanation A possible explanation	is that	these frequent storms	are a result of climate change.
--	---------	-----------------------	---------------------------------

Being cautious when explaining results

This inconsistency may be due to ...
This discrepancy could be attributed to ...
A possible explanation for this might be that ...
It seems possible that these results are due to ...
This rather contradictory result may be due to ...
The observed increase in X could be attributed to ...
The possible interference of X cannot be ruled out ...
There are several possible explanations for this result.
There are two likely causes for the differences between ...
A possible explanation for these results may be the lack of adequate ...
Since this difference has not been found elsewhere it is probably not due to ...

Being cautious when discussing implications or recommendations

One possible implication of this is that ...
The findings of this study suggest that ...

These can be
revised easily to
indicate that
they are your
opinions and
thus do not
need a citation
by personalizing
the It to I or
We

Writing Conclusions

HOME »

Writing Conclusions

GENERAL LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS

Being Critical
Being Cautious
Classifying and Listing
Compare and Contrast
Defining Terms
Describing Trends
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Conclusions are shorter sections of academic texts which usually serve two functions. The first is to summarise and bring together the main areas covered in the writing, which might be called 'looking back'; and the second is to give a final comment or judgement on this. The final comment may also include making suggestions for improvement and speculating on future directions.

In dissertations and research papers, conclusions tend to be more complex and will also include sections on the significance of the findings and recommendations for future work. Conclusions may be optional in research articles where consolidation of the study and general implications are covered in the Discussion section. However, they are usually expected in dissertations and essays.

Restatement of aims

This paper has argued that ...
This study set out to determine ...
This essay has discussed the reasons for ...
In this investigation, the aim was to assess ...
The main goal of the current study was to determine ...
The purpose of the current study was to determine ...
This project was undertaken to design ... and evaluate ...
The present study was designed to determine the effect of ...
Returning to the hypothesis/question posed at the beginning of this study, it is now possible to state that ...

Summarising research findings

This study has identified ...
This study has shown that ...
The research has also shown that ...
The second major finding was that ...
These experiments confirmed that ...
X made no significant difference to ...
This study has found that generally ...
The investigation of X has shown that ...
The results of this investigation show that ...
X, Y and Z emerged as reliable predictors of ...
Multiple regression analysis revealed that the ...
The most obvious finding to emerge from this study is that ...
The relevance of X is clearly supported by the current findings.
One of the more significant findings to emerge from this study is that ...

Suggesting implications for the field of knowledge

In general, therefore, it seems that ...
The results of this study indicate that ...
These findings suggest that in general ...
The findings of this study suggest that ...
Taken together, these results suggest that ...
An implication of this is the possibility that ...

More Writing Conclusions



Significance of the findings or contribution of the study

This research extends our knowledge of ...
This research will serve as a base for future studies and ...
This research provides a framework for the exploration of ...
This research has several practical applications. Firstly, it points to ...

These findings enhance our understanding of ...
The findings of this thesis could be used to help ...
The current findings add to a growing body of literature on ...
Taken together, these findings suggest a role for X in promoting Y.
The findings of this investigation complement those of earlier studies.

A key strength of the present study was the ...
The present study makes several noteworthy contributions to ...
The present study should prove to be particularly valuable to ...
The present study provides additional evidence with respect to ...
The present study confirms previous findings and contributes additional evidence that suggests ...

The key strengths of this study are its long duration and ...
The empirical findings in this study provide a new understanding of ...
The study has gone some way towards enhancing our understanding of ...
The study has confirmed the findings of Smith et al. (2001) which found that ...
The findings from this study make several contributions to the current literature. First,...

This is the first study to investigate the effect of ...
This is the first time that X has been used to explore ...
This study has demonstrated, for the first time, that ...
This is the first study reporting an advantage in those who ...
This is the largest study so far documenting a delayed onset of ...

The contribution of this study has been to confirm ...
This work contributes to existing knowledge X by providing ...
The analysis of X undertaken here, has extended our knowledge of ...
The methods used for this X may be applied to other Xs elsewhere in the world.
The X that we have identified therefore assists in our understanding of the role of ...

Significance of the findings with a qualification

Notwithstanding these limitations, the study suggests that ...
Whilst this study did not confirm X, it did partially substantiate ...
Despite its exploratory nature, this study offers some insight into ...
Although the current study is based on a small sample of participants, the findings suggest ...

Limitations of the current study

A limitation of this study is that ...
Being limited to X, this study lacks ...
The small sample size did not allow ...
The major limitation of this study is the ...
This study was limited by the absence of ...
X makes these findings less generalisable to ...
Thirdly, the study did not evaluate the use of ...
It is unfortunate that the study did not include ...