

Linking Words/ Phrases

Personal opinion:

In my opinion, / In my view, / To my mind, / To my way of thinking, / Personally
I believe that / It strikes me that / I feel very strongly that / I am inclined to believe that / It
seems to me that / As far as I am concerned, / I think that the world would be a much better
place without nuclear power.

To list advantages and disadvantages:

One advantage of / Another advantage of / One other advantage of / A further
advantage of / The main advantage of / The greatest advantage of / The first advantage of
traveling to work by bicycle is that it is cheap; you don't have to pay for fuel.

One disadvantage of / Another disadvantage of / One other disadvantage of / A
further disadvantage of / The main disadvantage of / The greatest disadvantage of / The first
disadvantage of traveling to work by bicycle is that you have no protection from the wind or rain.

To list points:

Firstly, / First of all, / In the first place, / Secondly, / Thirdly, / Finally, / To start with,
people who live in the country suffer far fewer health problems than those who live in the city.

To list points in a specific sequence:

Beginning: First, / To start with, / To begin with, / First of all, wash the wound with cold
water.

Continuing: Secondly, / After this/that, / Afterwards, / Then, / Next, wrap a bandage
around the cut.

Concluding: Finally, / Lastly, / Last but not least, place the patient in a comfortable
position and allow them to rest.

To add more points on the same topic:

What is more, / Furthermore, / Apart from this/that, / In addition (to this), / Moreover, / Besides (this), / ... not to mention the fact cars are extremely expensive to maintain.

Cars are **also** extremely expensive to maintain.

Cars are extremely expensive to maintain **too**.

Not only cars harmful to the environment, **but** they are extremely expensive to maintain **as well**.

Cars are **both** harmful to the environment **and** expensive to maintain.

To refer to other sources:

With reference to / According to the article in yesterday's Guardian, the unemployment rate is falling in Britain.

To express cause:

The government decided not to fund the scheme **because / owing to the fact that / due to the fact that / on the grounds that / since / as** it seemed likely to fail.

In view of / Because of / Owing to the scheme's high chances of failure, the government decided not to fund it.

The scheme is likely to fail; **for this reason** the government has decided not to fund it.

The government has decided to fund the scheme **now that** its planners have redesigned it.

To express effect:

He passed his exams; **thus, / therefore, / so / consequently, / as a result, / as a consequence, / for this reason,** he was able to go to university.

To express purpose:

The government decided not to introduce the death penalty **for fear (that)** innocent people would die.

The government decided not to introduce the death penalty **so that** innocent people would not die.

The government decided not to introduce the death penalty **so as to / in order to** avoid the deaths of innocent people.

The government decided not to introduce the death penalty **in case** it resulted in the death of innocent people.

To emphasise what you say:

Clearly, / Obviously, / Of course, / Needless to say, if everyone were allowed to carry a gun, the crime rate would rise considerably.

To express reality:

It is a fact that / In effect, / In fact, / As a matter of fact, / The fact of the matter is (that) / Actually, / In practice, / Indeed, / To tell you the truth, a crash helmet would be quite useless in the event of a serious motorcycle accident.

To express the difference between appearance and reality:

Initially, / At first, / At first sight, his injuries seemed minor, but when the doctors examined him, they discovered he had fractured his skull.

To give examples:

For instance, / For example, by reducing your intake of red meat you can decrease your chances of having a heart attack in later life.

By reducing your intake of foods **such as / like** beef and lamb you can decrease your chances of having a heart attack in later life.

If you want to decrease your chances of having a heart attack in later life, you should reduce your intake of meat, **particularly / in particular, / especially** red meat.

To make general statements:

As a general rule, / Generally, / In general, / On the whole, people who exercise regularly suffer fewer stress-related problems than those who don't.

To make partially correct statements:

Up to a point, / To a certain extent, / To some extent, / In a sense, / In a way, this is true as women in society are far less likely to use physical violence than men.

To express limit of knowledge.:

To the best of my knowledge / As far as I know, there is no firm proof of the existence of aliens.

To state other people's opinion:

It is popularly believed that / People often claim that / It is often alleged that / Some people argue that / Many argue that / A lot of people think that / A lot of people believe that the earth is the only planet in our solar system that has ever supported life.

Contrary to popular belief, the earth is not the only planet in our solar system to have supported life.

To make contrasting points:

It is a known fact that smoking causes cancer, **yet / however, / nevertheless, / but / at the same time / even so, / still, / nonetheless,** millions of people around the world continue to smoke.

Although / Even though / Regardless of the fact that / In spite of the fact that / Despite the fact that / While it is a known fact that smoking causes cancer, millions of people around the world continue to smoke.

To express balance (the other side of the argument):

Dogs are good pets in that they provide companionship, **however, / but / on the other hand, / although / yet, / at the same time, / in contrast,** feeding and grooming a dog can be expensive and time-consuming.

Negative addition:

Neither the prime minister **nor** his deputy knew anything about the experiment.

Neither of them knew anything about the experiment.

The prime minister didn't know anything about the experiment; **nor / neither** did his deputy.

The prime minister didn't know anything about the experiment and his deputy **didn't either.**

To express exception:

He read all the books **but / apart from / except (for)** one: "Oliver Twist".

To clarify / rephrase:

In other words, / That is to say, / To put it another way, if people made more of an effort to protect the environment, the world would be a much healthier place to live in.