

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
Finally

To introduce detail

Especially
In particular
Specifically
Namely

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.



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>)