

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>)