LINKING WORDS & PHRASES

What are linking words and phrases?

Linking words and phrases join ideas, sentences and paragraphs together. They include coordinating conjunctions and subordinators (within sentences), and transitions (between sentences).

These linking words and phrases indicate the direction, order and flow of ideas. Significantly, they strengthen the cohesion of your work.

Coordinating conjunctions

Ideas within sentences need to flow coherently. Coordinating conjunctions enable this flow.

There are seven coordinating conjunctions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conjunction</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>for</td>
<td>Connects a reason to a result</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>Connects equal similar ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nor</td>
<td>Connects two negative ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but</td>
<td>Connects equal different ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Connects two equal choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yet</td>
<td>Connects equal contrasting ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>so</td>
<td>Connects a result to a reason</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TIP

It’s easy to remember the seven coordinating conjunctions with the acronym: FANBOYS

Subordinating conjunctions

Subordinators link a sub-idea to a main idea within a sentence.

What can they signal?

A range of things, including the following:

A contrasting idea, e.g.,
- although
- even though
- whereas

A reason, e.g.,
- because
- since
- as

Chronological order, e.g.,
- before, after
- even though
- first, second, next

A hypothetical e.g.,
- if, only if, even if
- unless, whether or not
- so long as, as long as, in case
Transitions

Transitions link one main idea to another separated by a semi-colon or full-stop. Among other functions (see table), they can signal:

**Cause and effect**, e.g.,
- As a result
- Consequently
- Accordingly

e.g., The new procedure was successful. **As a result**, the patient’s health has steadily improved over the past 12 months.

**Chronological order**, e.g.,
- First, second
- Next, subsequently
- After, previously

e.g. **First**, we provide information about the television programs. **Subsequently**, we discuss the concept of Australianness. **Finally**, we examine the consequences of these representations.

**TIP**

When the transition word is at the beginning of the sentence, it should be followed by a comma:

Previously, on Homeland...

The transitions commonly used in academic writing are included in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transitions link to:</th>
<th>Examples:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>an additional idea</td>
<td>In addition, Additionally, Also, Furthermore, Besides (informal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an important idea</td>
<td>Moreover, Above all, Importantly, Most of all, Especially, Significantly, Indeed, In fact, After all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an alternative idea</td>
<td>Alternatively, Instead, Otherwise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a similar or equivalent idea</td>
<td>Equally, Similarly, Correspondingly Likewise, In the same vein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a contrasting idea</td>
<td>However, In contrast, By comparison, Conversely, Nevertheless, Nonetheless, Still (use for an opposing idea), On the other hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a result</td>
<td>Therefore, As a result, Accordingly, Consequently, In consequence Hence, Thus (formal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an idea linked in time or sequence</td>
<td>Previously, Before this, Earlier, Afterwards, After this, Thereafter Initially, Subsequently, Next, Then, Finally, First, Second, Third, Last At the same time, Simultaneously, Meanwhile, To begin,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a conclusion or summary</td>
<td>Overall, On the whole, Ultimately In conclusion, In summary, To summarise, To conclude In brief, In short, To put it succinctly, To sum up (less formal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a hypothetical</td>
<td>In that case, If so, If not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an example or clarification</td>
<td>For example, For instance, To illustrate, in particular, Specifically, Namely, In other words (informal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a concession</td>
<td>Admittedly, Granted, Of course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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