



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 your ideas. They also strengthen the cohesion of your work.



Coordinating conjunctions

Ideas within sentences need to flow coherently. This is where coordinating conjunctions can help, by connecting your ideas to create flow. There are 7 coordinating conjunctions:

Conjunction	Function
for	Connects a reason to a result
and	Connects equal similar ideas
nor	Connects two negative ideas
but	Connects equal different ideas
or	Connects two equal choices
yet	Connects equal contrasting ideas
so	Connects a result to a reason

It's easy to remember the 7 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, for example:

- although
- even though
- whereas.

A reason, for example:

- because
- since

- as.

Chronological order, for example:

- before, after
- first, second, next.

A hypothetical, for example:

- 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 semicolon or full stop. Among other functions (see table below), they can signal:

Cause and effect, for example:

- as a result
- consequently
- accordingly.

Example

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

Chronological order, for example:

- first, second
- next, subsequently
- after, previously.

Example

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

When the transition word is at the beginning of the sentence, it should be followed by a comma, e.g. *Previously, on Homeland...*

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

Transitions link to:	Examples:
an additional idea	In addition, Additionally, Also, Furthermore, Besides (<i>informal</i>), Neither (<i>links negative ideas</i>)
an important idea	Moreover, Above all, Importantly, Most of all, Especially, Significantly, Indeed, In fact, After all
an alternative idea	Alternatively, Instead, Otherwise
a similar or equivalent idea	Equally, Similarly, Correspondingly, Likewise, In the same vein
a contrasting idea	However, In contrast, By comparison, Conversely, Nevertheless, Nonetheless, Still (<i>use for an opposing idea</i>), On the other hand
a result	Therefore, As a result, Accordingly, Consequently, Hence, In consequence, Thus (<i>formal</i>)
a reason	Because of this, For this reason
an idea linked in time or sequence	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
a conclusion or summary	Overall, On the whole, Ultimately, In conclusion, In summary, To summarise, To conclude, In brief, In short, To put it succinctly, To sum up (<i>less formal</i>)
a hypothetical	In that case, If so, If not
an example or clarification	For example, For instance, To illustrate, In particular, Specifically, Namely, In other words (<i>informal</i>)
a concession	Admittedly, Granted, Of course