

Linking words and phrases

It is important to link words and phrases to integrate them into cohesive writing. The following words and phrases can be used to connect pieces of information in your writing.

1. to introduce another 'voice'

says writes thinks argues establishes emphasizes finds points out	notes suggests adds explains believes continues declares observes	proposes concludes agrees insists maintains disagrees states compares
--	--	--

Examples

- Crowler (2005) argues that ...
- Longman (2006) disagrees with Simmins (2005) on the point of...

2. connecting words in a sentence

and or	because but
-----------	----------------

Examples

- Smith (2004) agrees with Gowder's (2003) theory because it ...
- Communication theory may be considered as common sense, but...

3. listing words

first/firstly secondly thirdly furthermore finally/lastly one/two/three	above all last but not least to begin with ... moreover next
--	--

Examples

- Above all critical thinking about the texts presented is crucial because...
- Furthermore critical analysis is important in the workplace.

4. showing how to add information

also again furthermore further moreover what is more	then in addition besides above all too as well (as)
---	--

Examples

- The theory has been widely used in the business world. In addition it also has applications in other fields.
- Above all it is a theory which can be applied easily to practice.

5. showing how ideas are alike

equally likewise similarly	in the same way correspondingly
---	--

Example

- The importance of clear communication in the nursing profession is obvious. Similarly positive communication in the patient-doctor relationship is also vital.

6. showing how to move between ideas

now	with reference to
------------	--------------------------

Example

- With reference to Peddar's (1996) writings it is clear that they are the basis for more contemporary thinking in this area.

7. showing how to conclude your thoughts

in conclusion to conclude to sum up briefly	in brief to summarise
--	--

Examples

- To summarise, Walker's (2004) process of analysis is clearly a comprehensive method of ...
- In conclusion, both qualitative and quantitative methods have their supporters and place in research.

8. showing how to explain an idea in another way

that is namely	in other words as follows
---------------------------------	--

Examples

- In other words, management theory can be applied more broadly than was first suggested.
- That is, it can be applied to other fields of endeavour including...

9. showing how to express result

so therefore as a result/consequence accordingly because	consequently now then thus hence
--	--

Examples

- Consequently it can be concluded that good academic writing skills are an important factor in a student's success at university.
- Therefore it is important that nurse practitioners have excellent communication skills.

10. showing contrast between ideas

instead conversely then on the contrary	by way of contrast in comparison on the other hand
--	--

Examples

- Instead of only relying on quantitative data to explain the phenomenon, social workers also use qualitative data at times.
- In comparison, most researchers in the field of physics rely mainly on quantitative data methods.

11. showing alternative ideas

besides however nevertheless nonetheless only	still yet in any case all the same at the same time
---	---

Examples

- Jones (2005) suggests... however Christy (2006) challenges this notion.
- Nevertheless, this challenge does not invalidate the basic usefulness of Jones' assumptions.

Sources:

Jordan, RR 1992 *Academic writing course*, Nelson, London.

Spatt, B 1999 *Writing from sources*, Bedford/St.Martin's, Boston.