

Transitions & linking words

Transitional and linking words are important in helping to make your assignment read smoothly and flow easily from one idea to the next. They do this by connecting or linking ideas within a paragraph, and by providing a bridge between paragraphs. Below are some words and phrases which you might find useful.

Adding information

additionally	finally	along with
again	furthermore	as well as
also	incidentally	not only ... but also
and	lastly	for instance
another	moreover	in addition
besides	next	too

Referring to

concerning	regarding	considering
with regards to	with respect to	on the subject of

To show order and sequence

about	at first	soon	as soon as
after/afterwards	following	subsequently	in the future
before	formerly	then	soon after
currently	meanwhile	thereafter	to begin with
during	next	until	at the same time
finally	previously	when	the next step
first/secondly/thirdly	simultaneously	while	in the meantime

To show comparison

also	after all	in the same manner	equally
as	at the same time	by the same token	
like/likewise	by and large	on the one hand	
meanwhile	in comparison	on the other hand	
similarly	in the same way	comparatively	

To show contrast

although	nonetheless	although this is	in contrast
but	notwithstanding	(and) yet	on the contrary
conversely	otherwise	even though	on the other hand
however	alternatively	when in fact	while this is true
albeit	be that as it may	despite	regardless

To show exception

aside from	except	other than	besides
barring	excluding	outside of	exclusive of

To emphasise a point

again	undoubtedly	in fact	especially
obviously	as a matter of fact	to emphasise	particularly
truly	for this reason	above all	chiefly
indeed	more importantly		

To clarify

for instance	in other words	to put it differently	that is
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To generalise

as a rule	for the most part	ordinarily	
as usual	generally	usually	

To give examples

namely	as an illustration	for instance	including
specifically	for example	to demonstrate	in this case
notably	especially	such as	in particular

To introduce as a result/consequence

accordingly	therefore	because of this	owing to
consequently	thus	due to	for this reason
so	as a result	in that	

To conclude / summarise

accordingly	in the end	in brief	on the whole
all in all	so	in the final analysis	in the long run
consequently	therefore	in conclusion	to conclude
finally	thus	in short	on balance
hence	as a result	in summary	to sum up

Adapted from:

Open Polytechnic. Transitions and linking words. Retrieved from

<http://www.narragansett.k12.ri.us/NHS/eng/online/wh/trans1.pdf>, 8 May 2013.

Christchurch Polytechnic. Linking words & phrases. Retrieved from

http://repository.cpit.ac.nz/eserv.php?pid=cpit:2714&dsID=Linking_Words_Phrases_Jan_2011_Version_1.pdf 9 May 2013

