



Vocabulary: linking words and phrases

Linking words and phrases are the glue that helps to hold your writing together. For example, read the short passage below:

Readers are often critical of film adaptations of novels which change the source material in major ways. Fidelity is not a suitable measure for judging a film adaptation's success, as numerous scholars agree (Desmond & Hawkes 2006, Leitch 2008). Reviewing film adaptations is, Whelehan (1999, p. 9) contends, an 'inexact science dogged by value judgments about the relative artistic worth of literature and film'.

Now look at that same passage with two minor additions:

Readers are often critical of film adaptations of novels which change the source material in major ways. **However**, fidelity is not a suitable measure for judging a film adaptation's success, as numerous scholars agree (Desmond & Hawkes 2006, Leitch 2008). Reviewing film adaptations is **ultimately**, Whelehan (1999, p. 9) contends, an 'inexact science dogged by value judgments about the relative artistic worth of literature and film'.

Those two additions – **however** and **ultimately** – help to enhance the flow of the paragraph: **however** indicates a change in focus, while **ultimately** signals that the discussion is coming to an end.

Linking words and phrases help guide the reader through your assignment; telling them when to stop, slow down, start, turn left etc. Below are some linking words and phrases you can use in your writing.

To introduce an author's voice into your writing, e.g. to transition into a direct quote or paraphrase		
Advises Agrees/Disagrees Argues Asserts Believes Concludes Declares Explains	Notes Observes Proposes Recommends Says States Suggests Writes	Example: Smith (2013) argues that...

To connect words and clauses together		
And Or Because But	While Since So	Example: The results were ambiguous because of variables in...



To extend a train of thought or to list a number of items one after another

Furthermore In addition Also Moreover	Firstly Secondly Thirdly Finally/Lastly	Example: <i>In addition</i> , students felt exploited by...
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To compare and contrast ideas

In comparison In contrast On the one hand On the other hand	Similarly Likewise However	Example: Locals enjoyed the 2013 Festival. <i>In contrast</i> , tourists criticised...
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To transition into alternative viewpoints

However Nevertheless/nonetheless Meanwhile	But Yet	Example: <i>Meanwhile</i> , politicians have been lukewarm in...
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To introduce an example/evidence

For example For instance By way of example	Example: <i>For example</i> , 10% of participants thought...
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To conclude a train of thought or signal you have finished discussing a topic

Finally In conclusion To conclude To summarise	Ultimately Overall Therefore Consequently	Example: <i>To conclude</i> , it remains to be seen whether...
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Remember that all these words and phrases have different meanings, and it is wise to check their definitions if you are not sure of their exact meaning. This will help ensure that you have matched the correct phrase to the intention of your writing.

Useful links *(all open in a new window)*

There may be resources that have been created with your lecturers, addressing assignment tasks and topics specific to your courses. Follow the links below to find out:

[Business](#)

[Education, Arts and
Social Sciences](#)

[Health Sciences](#)

[IT, Engineering and
the Environment](#)