Using linking words within and between sentences and paragraphs helps to make your writing flow logically. These words act as signposts, assisting your reader to move easily from one idea to the next, and to see relationships between sentences or paragraphs. Linking words are particularly useful for indicating that you are going to explain something, to give an example or to use a time sequence, or to offer a contrasting view.

**To give an example**
For example
For instance
To illustrate
.... such as

**To show order of time or importance**
First, Second etc
First of all
Then
Next
Afterwards
Finally
Subsequently
Recently
At the same time
In the meantime
Sometimes
Preceding this
Until

**To offer a contrast**
However
In contrast
Nevertheless
On the contrary
On the other hand
Alternatively
Despite this
Although

**To show similarity**
Likewise
Similarly

**To express causality**
Accordingly
Consequently
For this reason

**To emphasise something**
Above all
Certainly
Clearly
Indeed
In fact
Obviously

**To amplify**
Again
Also
Apparently
Equally important
Furthermore
In addition
Moreover
Finally

**To introduce detail**
Especially
In particular
Specifically
Namely

**To interpret something**
Fortunately (unfortunately)
Interestingly
Surprisingly (unsurprisingly)
Significantly

**To generalise**
On the whole
In general
Generally speaking
Broadly speaking

**To conclude**
To summarise
In conclusion

Linking words and phrases for beginning new paragraphs

At the beginning of each paragraph, you should aim to provide a clear *topic sentence* that tells the reader the subject of the paragraph, and also *connects* the paragraph with the previous paragraph or the main topic of the assignment. The following words and expressions are frequently used as paragraph openers and linking expressions. Read through the list and see if you can find useful ones for your own writing.

- First(ly), second(ly)....
- Essentially....
- .....has been defined as..... by......(   )
- The major concern....
- Another important concern....
- Another aspect of....
- Comparing this with....
- In comparison / contrast...
- Like....
- Unlike.....
- A leading idea / principle / opinion
- It is important to.....
- The main themes (factors/elements/ aspects) are:
- Views on... range from....to....
- The advantages of....
- The disadvantages of....
- The evidence shows / suggests that....
- It is apparent that....
- It is clear that....
- A clear case for....
- In practice....
- Whereas....
- The traditional interpretation ....
- It can be seen that....
- All these factors contribute to....
- Essentially....
- Nevertheless....
- Thus it is....
- Accordingly....
- Another essential point....
- After examining.....
- Basically.....
- Specifically....
- In summary...
- Finally....
- One could conclude....
- In conclusion....


For information (and a video) on how to make your writing flow go [HERE](http://owll.massey.ac.nz/assignment-types/essay-flow.php)

For a larger list of linking (transition) words and phrases go [HERE](http://www.smart-words.org/linking-words/transition-words.html)