

University Speak

Linking Words and Phrases

Academic writing has a flavour and method, just as other styles such as romance writing, science fiction or news reporting. Try using some of these examples in your writing to add a touch of university speak.

Contrasting ideas

- However, in this study, Allen does not clearly justify her conclusions, so...
- Nevertheless
- Even though
- By comparison
- On the other hand
- In contrast to this
- Whereas
- While Smith (1999) claims this, studies by Jones (2001) show that...
- Unlike, Green (2005) stresses that...

Comparing ideas

- Similarly, Johnson (2002) found that...
- More generally
- Likewise
- Just as Smith (2001) claims..., so too does Jones (2004), who...
- Equally
- In the same way
- By the same token

Sequencing ideas

- At first / Firstly / First of all / To begin with
- Following this / Prior to this / Since
- Before continuing
- Simultaneously
- Subsequently
- Lastly / Finally
- In summary
- In conclusion

Introducing examples

- For instance
- In particular
- In this case
- Especially significant is
- As an example
- For example
- Specifically
- By way of illustration
- In other words

Cause and effect

- As a result
- Thus
- Consequently
- Therefore
- An effect of this is ... / Hence
- Otherwise
- Due to this
- For this reason

'It' statements

- It might be thought that...
- It could be perceived that...
- It is often argued that...
- It is interesting to note that...
- It would seem that...
- It tends to be the case that...
- It could be concluded that...

Adding an idea

- Moreover / Furthermore
- Another reason/example/aspect is...
- So / Indeed
- In addition / Additionally
- Related to this idea is...

Sentence Beginners

Try the following sentence starters in your academic writing. They can help you to link your paragraphs with a logical flow and let your reader know the direction you are taking with your ideas.

- Some additional points need to be considered...
- This approach raises some important questions...
- It might seem as if...
- The main concern of this assignment is...
- Some writers have suggested...
- Various people have emphasised...
- Numerous studies (references) have been conducted...
- Most of the evidence indicates...
- It should be acknowledged that...

- Overall, the findings suggest that...
- This contention is clearly at odds with...
- Further support can be found in the work of...
- A recurring theme in the research is...
- These authors imply that...
- On the issue of gifted education, this point...
- Writing in the Australian context...
- There is consistent evidence that...
- In line with predictions, this study indicates...
- It is worth noting that...
- Contrary to expectations...
- Based on the results of the first experiment...
- On the basis of this, it could be inferred that...
- Insufficient information exists on...
- With the exception of ..., there has been little published work aimed at...
- Future research might profit from...
- By logical extension, it can be argued that...
- Similar inferences can be drawn from...
- Researchers have employed different methods, thus it is not surprising that results have tended to be equivocal...
- Research has yielded some interesting, albeit seemingly contradictory, results...
- These findings are particularly intriguing given the extensive literature on...
- The limitation of this study is that the sample failed to reveal...

How to include other writers' work

Incorporating the work of others into your writing strengthens your argument. Show your reader how to find those sources by referencing them appropriately. The following examples are written using APA style.

- Recent studies by Green (2017; 2016) suggest...
- Brown (2008) concludes that this view is inaccurate...
- It is Black's (2010) contention that...
- Smith (2012) supports the idea that...
- Jones (1996) sums up the view that...
- Thomas Green (2008) speaks of...
- Hathaway (2001) finds that...
- Many writers on this subject find that... (Baird, 2011; Smith & Wright, 2009; Caldic, 2008).
- Waugh (2002) asserts that ...
- Black's findings are particularly salient as... (2003).
- While Smith (2009) addresses the question of...,
- Jones (2016) emphasises a different point in the debate related to...
- Green's (2012) view highlights the need for...
- In order to understand the issue of ..., it is useful to examine the findings of Alexander Brown (2010).
- While not stating it overtly, Jones (2008) implies...
- Smith's (1975) landmark study on autism illustrates...
- Jones's (2011) observations underline the need for...
- Black's (1992) claims are well-substantiated as...
- Many experts echo the notion that... (Ford, 2008; Kristic & Miles, 2010; Wales, 2012).
- Margaret Green (2001) subscribes to the theory that...
- Brown (2012) and Smith (2014) are likeminded in their approach to corporate governance...
- Gray's essay (2006) on social capital challenges Foucault's contention that...
- Bronway holds the opposite view, stating that... "(quote)" (2010, p.22).
- Blathe, in "My Article", writes, "(quote)" (2009, p.19).
- Similarly, Johnson (2002) found that....

Other helpsheets available

- Writing in an Academic Style
- Incorporating Evidence
- Glossary of Instructional Words