

Including linking words in your sentences

One way in which you can make your writing ‘flow’ (i.e. write sentences that are clearly and smoothly connected) is to use linking words or phrases. These highlight the logical relationships between ideas in a sentence, or between ideas in adjoining sentences or paragraphs. This resource shows you how to correctly fit these words into your sentences. *

Type of relationship between ideas	To connect two sentences (Join with a full stop or semicolon)	To connect two clauses into one sentence (Join with a comma)		Other ways of connecting ideas
		To connect 2 independent clauses (i.e. using a co-ordinating conjunction)	To connect a dependent clause to an independent clause (i.e. using a sub-ordinating conjunction)	
1. To add an idea	in addition also too besides moreover furthermore further	and nor		another an additional in addition to as well as along with nor not only ... but also
2. To compare ideas (show similarity)	similarly likewise also too	and	just as	similar like the same as both ... and ...
3. To contrast ideas • to show difference • to introduce an opposite idea, a contradiction, an unexpected finding, or a concession	however in contrast on the other hand	but	whereas while	unlike
	nevertheless nonetheless conversely still instead however on the other hand in contrast	but yet	although though even though whereas while	despite in spite of

* Use linking words sparingly! They are useful, but there are often better ways to make your writing flow. See our resource '[Connecting Ideas](#)' for more tips..

Type of relationship between ideas	To connect two sentences	To connect two clauses into one sentence		Other ways of connecting ideas
		2 independent clauses	dependent + independent	
4. To add further "depth" (detail or emphasis) to an idea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reinforce or emphasise To explain or rephrase To introduce an example To introduce a more specific point 	in fact indeed of course clearly			
	in other words that is			i.e.
	for example for instance			an example of such as namely to illustrate e.g.
	in particular specifically			
5. To show cause & effect	therefore thus as a result as a consequence consequently accordingly hence	for so	because since as	because of due to as a result of the cause of the reason for
6. To show sequence or a time link between ideas	first, second , ... next, then last, finally since then meanwhile		before, after while until as soon as	following since the
7. To show an alternative	alternatively otherwise	or		

More resources

If you would like to know more about how to make your writing flow smoothly and logically, or to brush up on some of the terminology in this handout (e.g. dependent & independent clauses, co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions)

- check out our resources on [Writing clearly and logically](#) and [Polishing your writing](#).
- or talk to one of the Learning Advisors in Academic Success (academicsuccess@lincoln.ac.nz)