

Scientific Writing

Linking Words

Linking words, or 'transition signals', show the relationships between your information and ideas. They can show order, lists, comparisons and cause and effect. Using these words makes your writing much clearer for your reader, as they guide your reader through your writing, and tell your reader about the connections between your ideas and the evidence that you are using to support your ideas. Linking and reporting words turn your collected research into a coherent unit.

Using linking words:

There is no rule about when to use linking words or how many you should use: use one when you want to relate pieces of information, but you do not have to use one in every sentence. Example: Critical analysis of internet sources is crucial, **because** it is not always clear who wrote the information **or** where the information came from.

Grammar:

One rule you need to be careful of is that linking words relate two pieces of information. You cannot write a sentence including a linking word like **'but'** which has only one piece of information. Example: The light from the Sun looks white. But it is really made up of all the colours of the rainbow.

- The second part is a fragment not a sentence, because 'but' needs to link two ideas in the one sentence. It should be **'...white, but...'** with a comma.
- When using linking, hedging and reporting words and phrases, pay attention to the grammar so that your sentences are grammatically correct.

Some Common Linking Words:

1. **Sequence** : can indicate processes or separate pieces of information.

First, firstly, second, third, thirdly next, last finally

in addition, moreover

furthermore

also

In conclusion, to summarise

The first...

The/a second

One...

Another...

An additional...

2. Addition

In addition Furthermore

Also and

as well as

3. Cause : using “cause” and “effect” show the reader clearly that one is the result of another.

For because

since as

because of to cause

4. Effect

So as a result

as a consequence therefore

thus consequently

hence to result from

due to as a result/consequence

of to result in

to affect

5. Emphasis

Undoubtedly Indeed

Obviously Generally

Admittedly In theory/fact

Particularly Especially

Clearly

6. Comparison

Similarly Likewise

Also Too

as just as

and like

just like similar to

be similar to/ the same as be alike

not only...but also to compare to/with

7. Contrast

However Nevertheless

Nonetheless Still

Although, Even though, though but

yet Despite, In spite of

In contrast, In comparison While, whereas

On the other hand

On the contrary

But

8. Example : it is useful way to introduce supporting examples for a theory or statement.

For example For instance

That is Such as

Including Namely

9. Chronology: clearly shows the order of events.

Before Once

During Till

adter until

Since meanwhile

References:

1- Linking and reporting words, "James Cook university"

2- Common Linking words, " RMIT university"