

Useful linking phrases: signposting.

The phrases below give some options when trying to vary the language in your work. The first section, **structural signposts**, offers useful phrases when you are indicating to your reader something about the structure or direction of your writing, and how you are going to present your ideas. The second section, **critical thinking signposts**, contains phrases that you can use to make your arguments clear to your reader, and indicate the relationship between ideas and evidence.

Structural Signposts:

Listing:

- Firstly, secondly, thirdly...
- First, furthermore, finally...
- Next, last,
- Another...

Addition:

- And, also;
- In addition, an additional;
- Too;
- As well.

Reformulation:

- In other words;
- Rather;
- Simply put;
- In brief;
- That is.

Highlighting:

- Importantly.
- In particular, particularly;
- Especially;
- Indeed;
- In fact;
- Clearly;
- Importantly.

Reinforcement:

- Furthermore;
- Moreover;

Transition to new point:

- Now,
- With regard, reference to;
- Turning to;
- As for...
- It follows that.

Critical thinking signposts:

Reason:

- For;
- Because;
- Since;
- As;
- Because of.

Giving examples:

- For example;
- For instance;
- As follows;
- In this case;
- Namely.

Generalising:

- In general;
- Generally;
- On the whole;
- As a rule;
- For the most part;
- In most cases;
- Usually, typically.

Learning Development

Contrast:

- Instead;
- Conversely;
- On the contrary;
- However;
- Although, even though, though.
- Yet;
- In contrast to, in comparison;
- While;
- Whereas;
- On the other hand.

Similarity:

- Equally;
- In the same way;
- Likewise;
- Similarly;
- Correspondingly;
- Like;
- Just as;
- Similar to;
- Compare, compared to or with.

Concession:

- Despite;
- Admittedly;
- Nevertheless;
- Nonetheless;
- Notwithstanding.

Deduction:

- If...then;
- In that case;
- Otherwise;
- This implies that;
- If so, if not.

Result or consequence:

- Therefore;
- As a result;
- In consequence, consequently;
- Accordingly;
- Because of this or that;
- Thus;
- Hence;
- For this or that reason;
- Due to.

Conclusion:

- In conclusion;
- To conclude;
- To summarise;
- Overall;
- Therefore.

For more examples and ideas, see The University of Manchester Academic Phrasebank at <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>