Transitions & linking words

Transitional and linking words are important in helping to make your assignment read smoothly and flow easily from one idea to the next. They do this by connecting or linking ideas within a paragraph, and by providing a bridge between paragraphs. Below are some words and phrases which you might find useful.

Adding information

additionally finally along with again furthermore as well as

also incidentally not only ... but also

and lastly for instance another moreover in addition

besides next too

Referring to

concerning regarding considering with regards to with respect to on the subject of

To show order and sequence

at first about as soon as soon after/afterwards following subsequently in the future before formerly then soon after thereafter currently meanwhile to begin with during next until at the same time finally previously when the next step first/secondly/thirdly simultaneously while in the meantime

To show comparison

after all also in the same manner equally at the same time by the same token as like/likewise by and large on the one hand meanwhile in comparison on the other hand in the same way similarly comparatively

To show contrast

although nonetheless although this is in contrast notwithstanding but (and) yet on the contrary conversely otherwise even though on the other hand when in fact while this is true however alternatively albeit be that as it may despite regardless

To show exception

aside from	except	other than	besides
barring	excluding	outside of	exclusive of

To emphasise a point

again	undoubtedly	in fact	especially
obviously	as a matter of fact	to emphasise	particularly
truly	for this reason	above all	chiefly
indeed	more importantly		

To clarify

for instance in other words to put it differently that is

To generalise

as a rule	for the most part	ordinarily
as usual	generally	usually

To give examples

namely	as an illustration	for instance	including
specifically	for example	to demonstrate	in this case
notably	especially	such as	in particular

To introduce as a result/consequence

accordingly	therefore	because of this	owing to
consequently	thus	due to	for this reason
SO	as a result	in that	

To conclude / summarise

accordingly	in the end	in brief	on the whole
all in all	SO	in the final analysis	in the long run
consequently	therefore	in conclusion	to conclude
finally	thus	in short	on balance
hence	as a result	in summary	to sum up

Adapted from:

Open Polytechnic. Transitions and linking words. Retrieved from http://www.narragansett.k12.ri.us/NHS/eng/online/wh/trans1.pdf, 8 May 2013.

Christhchurch Polytechnic. Linking words & phrases. Retrieved from http://repository.cpit.ac.nz/eserv.php?pid=cpit:2714&dsID=Linking_Words_Phrases_Jan_2011_Version_1.pdf 9 May 2013