

Linking Words / Phrases

Personal opinion:	<i>In my opinion/ In my view / To my mind / To my way of thinking / I am convinced that / It strikes me that / It is my firm belief that / I am inclined to believe that / It seems to me that / As far as I am concerned / I think that the economic recession of the previous decade was foreseeable.</i>
To list advantages and disadvantages:	<p><i>One advantage of / Another advantage of / One other advantage of / A further advantage of / The main advantage of / The greatest advantage of / The first advantage of riding a motorbike in a large metropolis is that of not getting caught in major congestion.</i></p> <p><i>One disadvantage of / Another disadvantage of / One other disadvantage of / A further disadvantage of / The main disadvantage of / The greatest disadvantage of / The first disadvantage of driving a car in a large metropolis is that of finding a parking space.</i></p>
To list points:	<p><i>Firstly / First of all / In the first place / Secondly / Thirdly / Finally / To start with / To begin with, we have to address the inadequacies within the education system before we can tackle unemployment fully.</i></p>
To list points in a specific sequence:	<p><i><u>BEGINNING</u> - First / To start with / To begin with / First of all, the Home Secretary will make an introductory speech.</i></p> <p><i><u>CONTINUING</u> - Secondly / After this / After that / Afterwards / Then / Next, the Prime Minister will speak.</i></p> <p><i><u>CONCLUDING</u> - Finally / Lastly / Last but not least, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will announce the new budget.</i></p>
To add more points to the same topic:	<p><i>What is more / Furthermore / Apart from this / Apart from that / In addition (to this) / Moreover / Besides (this) / ... not to mention the fact that your choice of career is a fundamental decision which will influence the rest of your life.</i></p> <p><i>Not only is your choice of career a fundamental decision, but it is also one that will influence the rest your life.</i></p> <p><i>Your choice or career is both a fundamental decision and something that will influence the rest your life.</i></p>
To refer to other sources:	<p><i>With reference to / According to the latest scientific research, the use of mobile phones can be damaging to one's health in the long run.</i></p>

<p>To express cause:</p>	<p><i>The man was acquitted of the crime because / owing to the fact that / due to the fact that / on the grounds that / since / as there wasn't any substantial evidence.</i></p> <p><i>In view of / Because of / Owing to the lack of substantial evidence, the man was acquitted of the crime.</i></p> <p><i>There was a lack of substantial evidence; for this reason the man was acquitted.</i></p> <p><i>Seeing that there was a lack of substantial evidence, the man was acquitted.</i></p> <p><i>The man is to be retired now that some new evidence has come to light.</i></p>
<p>To express effect:</p>	<p><i>There was a sudden deluge; thus / therefore / so / consequently / as a result / as a consequence, he sprinted home.</i></p>
<p>To express purpose:</p>	<p><i>Due to the storm, the pilot decided to turn back, so that the flight would not be jeopardized.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the storm, the pilot decided to turn back, so as to / in order to avoid jeopardizing the flight.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the storm, the pilot decided to turn back, in case the flight was jeopardized.</i></p> <p><i>They purchased the old mansion with the purpose / with the intention of converting it into a luxury hotel.</i></p>
<p>To emphasise a point:</p>	<p><i>Indeed / Naturally / Clearly / Obviously / Of course / Needless to say, the scheme was bound to fail due to insufficient funds.</i></p>
<p>To express reality:</p>	<p><i>It is a fact that / In effect / In fact / As a matter of fact / The fact of the matter is (that) / Actually / In practice / Indeed, smoking over a long period of time will seriously increase the risk of heart disease.</i></p>
<p>To express the difference between appearance and reality:</p>	<p><i>Initially / At first, the proposal was viewed with suspicion but after much deliberation it was finally accepted.</i></p>

<p>To give examples:</p>	<p><i>For instance / For example, by establishing day-care centres across the country, working mothers can be encouraged to resume their careers.</i></p> <p><i>By providing incentives such as / like day-care centres working mothers are encouraged to resume their careers.</i></p> <p><i>If working mothers are to resume their careers, then the provision of incentives particularly / in particular / especially day-care centres is essential.</i></p>
<p>To make general statements:</p>	<p><i>As a (general) rule / By and large / Generally / In general / On the whole, countries nearer the equator have warmer climates..</i></p>
<p>To make partially correct statements:</p>	<p><i>Up to a point / To a certain extent / To a certain degree / To some extent / To some degree / In a sense / In a way / To a limited extent, this is true but computers will always need human input.</i></p>
<p>To express limit of knowledge:</p>	<p><i>To the best of my knowledge / As far as I know, Canary Wharf is the tallest building in London.</i></p>
<p>To state other people's opinion:</p>	<p><i>It is popularly believed that / People often claim that / It is often alleged that / Some people argue that / Many argue that / Most people feel that / Some people point out that wealth will bring happiness,</i></p> <p><i>Contrary to popular belief, wealth does not necessarily bring happiness.</i></p>
<p>To make contrasting points:</p>	<p><i>It is a well-known fact that living in the city is harmful to one's health yet / however / nevertheless / but / even so / still / nonetheless, a lot of people move to the city every year in search of a better future.</i></p> <p><i>Although / Even though / Regardless of the fact that / In spite of the fact that / Despite the fact that / While it is a well-known fact that living in the city is harmful to one's health, a lot of people move to the city every year in search of a better future.</i></p>
<p>To express balance (the other side of the argument):</p>	<p><i>Opponents of using animals in experiments argue / claim / believe that alternative methods of testing can always be used.</i></p> <p><i>While it is true to say that genetic engineering holds the key to solving many of the world's serious problems, in fact it should be viewed with caution.</i></p> <p><i>The fact that a great number of university graduates cannot find employment contradicts the belief/idea that a university education is the key to a successful career.</i></p>

Negative addition:	<p><i>Neither smoking nor consuming too much alcohol are considered healthy.</i></p> <p><i>Smoking is not considered healthy; nor / neither is consuming too much alcohol.</i></p> <p><i>Smoking is not considered healthy and consuming too much alcohol isn't, either.</i></p>
To express exception:	<p><i>He had collected every edition of the magazine apart from / but / except (for) one.</i></p>
To clarify / rephrase:	<p><i>In other words / That is to say / To put it another way, if you drive more carefully you are less likely to have an accident.</i></p>
To express similarity:	<p><i>Brushing your teeth daily is fundamental for good oral hygiene; similarly / likewise / in the same way, not eating food containing sugar in-between meals also promotes oral hygiene.</i></p>
To give an alternative:	<p><i>We could use (either) a chain-saw or an axe.</i></p> <p><i>We could use an axe. On the other hand / Alternatively, a chain-saw would be simpler and faster.</i></p>
To express condition:	<p><i>His father promised to buy him a car on the condition that / provided (that) / providing (that) / only if / as long as he passed his exams to enter university.</i></p> <p><i>In the event of a fire alarm, In the event that / If a fire alarm should ring, leave by the nearest fire exit quickly and quietly.</i></p> <p><i>Take a map in case you become disorientated.</i></p> <p><i>Do you happen to know whether (or not) this is the most direct route?</i></p> <p><i>You should call her otherwise / or (else) she will start to become worried.</i></p>
To express the consequence of a condition:	<p><i>The price of underground tickets is due to increase again; consequently / then / so / in which case, I will start taking the bus.</i></p> <p><i>I'm hoping to get paid today; if so, I'll be going out tonight, if not / otherwise, it'll be another night in front of the TV</i></p>
To express comparison:	<p><i>My best friend is as intelligent as / more intelligent than / twice as intelligent as / less intelligent than me.</i></p>

To conclude:	<i>Finally / Lastly / All in all / Taking everything into account / Taking everything into consideration / On the whole / All things considered / In conclusion / On balance / For the above mentioned reasons / Therefore I feel that / To sum up, it is unlikely that there will be peace in all the countries of the world concurrently.</i>
Time:	<p><i>Press the button when / whenever / before / until / till / after the light comes on.</i></p> <p><i>There have been no earthquakes since July last year.</i></p> <p><i>He saw her as he was leaving the shop. He saw her while he was waiting.</i></p> <p><i>I never see him now that his hours have changed.</i></p>
Relatives:	<p><i>It was those people over there who/that did it.</i></p> <p><i>That's the witness whose testimony will be heard later on today.</i></p> <p><i>That's the judge who/that will adjudicate your claim.</i></p> <p><i>That's the law court where you will be tried.</i></p> <p><i>That's the woman who/whom/that I think was responsible.</i></p>
Reference:	<p><i>I am writing to advise you of a meeting regarding / concerning the upcoming award presentation ceremony.</i></p> <p><i>I am writing with respect to / with regard to / with reference to / in regard to / in reference to your recently published article on vivisection.</i></p>
Summarising:	<i>In short / Briefly / To put it briefly, his performance on stage was fantastic!</i>

Adapted from:

Evans V. (2006) *Successful Writing Proficiency*. Newbury: Express Publishing.