

Signal Words and Phrases

In academic writing (as well as in speaking), a writer must use certain words and phrases to connect their ideas, show a logical relationship between ideas, and guide the reader in the direction that the writer wants them to go. We use signal words and phrases to do this.

Signal Words of Time and Process

First...	To start,...
Second...	To begin with,...
Then...	The first step is...
The next...	Turning now...
About the same time...	Once X is done,...
Another...	Having looked at X,...
Prior to...	Afterwards,...
Before...	When...
Former/latter	Moving on...
Until...	Finally,...
Subsequently...	Next,...
Finally...	Let's turn to...
By X,...	

Signal Words of Comparison (Compare/Contrast Reminder Phrases)

<i>Similarities</i>	<i>Differences</i>
Too	But
Also	In contrast
Similar to	Whereas
Both	On the other hand
Likewise	Unlike
In the same way	However
Similarly	Different from
The same	Yet
As well as	While

Signal Words of Classification

There are three types/kinds/categories of...	Three types/kinds/categories of X are...
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Several/Some types of X are...	X can be divided into three parts...
X consists of three types...	X comprises three segments...
X, Y, and Z are kinds/types of...	

Signal Words of Cause and Effect

Linking two clauses	When, because, since
Linking noun phrase + clause	As a result of, because of
Linking two noun phrases	Cause(s), lead(s) to, contribute(s) to, result(s) in, produce(s), is/are more likely to
Transitions	As a result,... Therefore/consequently
Other expressions	The more...the more...

Most Common Connectors

However	First, second, etc...
Thus	Also
For example	In addition
Finally	Therefore
On the other hand	Then
Nevertheless	For instance
Furthermore	Moreover
In particular	But
In fact	Yet

Summary Reminder Phrases

The author goes on to say that...	The article further states that...
(Author) also states/maintains/argues that...	(Author) also believes that...
(Author) concludes that...	In the second half of the paper, (Author) presents...
(Author) goes on to say...	(Author) et al. also believe that...
The author further argues that...	