

Must-Have Phrases for Every Researcher

Your go-to bank of academic transitions — organized by purpose, ready when your draft stalls.

BEFORE YOU REACH FOR A FANCY WORD



Don't reach for fancy connectors to sound academic — choose the one that signals the **exact relationship** between your ideas.

ADDITION 01

- in addition to
- and / also / too
- similarly / likewise
- as well as / besides
- another / furthermore
- moreover / and then
- not only... also
- even / besides this
- in the same way

SEQUENCE 02

- first(ly) / initially
- in the first stage / phase
- one reason / advantage
- to begin with / second(ly)
- in the second stage / phase
- another reason / advantage
- then / earlier / later
- after this / at this point
- following this / that
- a further reason
- the final reason / advantage

CONSEQUENCE 03

- as a result
- thus / so
- therefore
- consequently
- it follows that
- thereby
- eventually
- then
- in that case
- admittedly

CONTRAST 04

- however
- on the other hand
- despite / in spite of
- though / although
- conversely
- but / yet
- on the contrary
- otherwise / instead of
- rather / whereas
- nonetheless
- even though
- compared with / in contrast

REASON & CAUSE 05

- since / as / so
- because (of)
- due to
- owing to
- thus / hence
- in other words
- causes / caused by

EXAMPLE 06

- for instance
- for example
- one such as
- in particular
- namely
- such as
- in other words
- to illustrate

DEFINITION 07

- is
- refers to
- means
- that is
- consists of
- such as
- like

CONDITION 08

- if
- unless
- whether
- provided that
- so, that
- whether or not
- so that

CERTAINTY 09

- obviously
- certainly
- plainly
- of course
- undoubtedly

TIME 10

- before / after
- since / until
- meanwhile
- at the moment
- when / whenever
- as soon as
- just as
- presently
- at the present
- currently

SUMMARY 11

- in conclusion
- in summary
- last(ly), finally
- to sum up
- to conclude
- to recapitulate
- in short

tone & voice tips 12

- *Match register to audience*
- Avoid stacking connectors
- One transition per sentence
- Vary your openings
- Cut filler — read aloud
- Connect ideas, don't pad
- Precision over flourish

Strong writing is **precise**, not ornate. Pick the connector that names the relationship — and let your idea do the work.

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