



# TCS Writing Centre

## Connective Words and Phrases

In well connected speech and well organized writing, certain words and phrases help create **coherence** by **making clear the logic of how your ideas are organized**. These words and phrases are called **connective words and phrases**.

For instance, the connective phrase *for example* indicates that an example of a previously stated idea is about to be provided. As you progress through school, you will acquire and develop an increasingly sophisticated repertoire of connective words and phrases that will help you better understand academic discourse and better organize your ideas in both speech and writing.

A typical written academic argument requires an opening statement of fact or opinion. This is then supported by a series of arguments or examples and concludes with a closing statement that reminds readers what the initial assertion was.

Specific connective words and phrases are used to advance a thesis or argument, separate main ideas from examples or details, and identify conclusions. Other connective words and phrases link ideas among and within sentences and paragraphs in specific, logical ways. They may be used to identify cause and effect, to compare and contrast, to indicate time and sequence, and to illustrate spatial organization.

On the back of this sheet you will find several examples of connective words and phrases and how they can be used to improve the coherence of your writing.

## Examples of Connective Words and Phrases

<b>To indicate a generalization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally speaking</li> <li>• It is evident that</li> <li>• It can be argued that</li> <li>• Some scientists/historians/experts believe</li> </ul>
<b>To add examples or details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example</li> <li>• For instance</li> <li>• One example of this is</li> <li>• For one thing</li> <li>• Such as</li> </ul>
<b>To add information or evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additionally</li> <li>• Moreover</li> <li>• Furthermore</li> <li>• Also</li> </ul>
<b>To identify a conclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In conclusion</li> <li>• Finally</li> <li>• To sum up</li> <li>• Therefore</li> <li>• For these reasons</li> </ul>
<b>To identify cause and effect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consequently</li> <li>• Because (of) / as a result (of)</li> <li>• Thus</li> <li>• Therefore</li> <li>• For this reason</li> </ul>
<b>To compare and contrast</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similarly</li> <li>• More / less / fewer</li> <li>• However</li> <li>• On the other hand</li> <li>• Nevertheless</li> <li>• Conversely</li> </ul>
<b>To indicate time and sequence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firstly / secondly / thirdly</li> <li>• Before / after / prior to / subsequently</li> <li>• Meanwhile / simultaneously</li> <li>• Always / never / often / rarely</li> </ul>
<b>To illustrate spatial organization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By / in / on / over / up / down</li> <li>• Into / beside / below / along / across</li> <li>• Through / above / next to</li> <li>• Equidistant from / parallel to</li> <li>• Bisecting / intersecting</li> </ul>