



Signal Words

Signal words are transitional words or phrases that are used to connect ideas, show the relationship between ideas, and guide the reader in the direction that the writer chooses.

Types of Signal Words

Continuation Signals— says *“there are more ideas to come”*

Examples: And, also, another, again, furthermore, likewise, moreover, next, similarly, too

Change-of-Direction Signals— says *“wait, we’re going back”*

Examples: Although, but, despite, even though, however, in contrast, otherwise, on the contrary

Sequence Signals— says *“these ideas have an order”*

Examples: After, before, during, earlier, first, for one thing, last, next, now, since, second, until, while

Time Signals—clarifies *“when”*

Examples: After awhile, already, at the same time, during, immediately, lately, little by little, final, once

Illustration Signals— says *“something else is similar or the same”*

Examples: For example, for instance, in the same way as, much like, similar to, specifically, such as

Emphasis Signals—says *“this is important”*

Examples: A major development, a significant factor, a primary concern, a key factor, a major event, above all, by the way, especially relevant, important to note, most noteworthy, of course

Cause, Condition, or Result Signals— Says *“a condition or modification is coming up”*

Examples: As, because, but, due to, from, for, in order that, of, since, so, so that, therefore, thus, whether, until

Spatial Signals—clarifies *“where”*

Examples: About, adjacent, around, between, below, close to, far, middle, next to, out, side, toward

Comparison-Contrast Signals— says *“now we will compare idea A with idea B”*

Examples: And, also, best, better, but, different from, however, like, much as, opposite, still, then, though, yet

Conclusion Signals— says *“an end is coming”*

Examples: As a result, consequently, finally, last of all, in conclusion, therefore, in summary

Fuzz Signals— says *“this isn’t exact”*

Examples: Almost, alleged, could, if, looks like, might, nearly, purported, probably, seems like, some, sort of

Further Assistance: For more detailed help or if you have questions, visit the Writing Center located in the Lewis University Library, or call 815-836-5427.