



# Useful English Phrases for Academic Writing

<p><b>Introducing a topic</b></p> <p>This paper will review the research conducted on ...</p> <p>This paper will focus on/ examine/ give an account of ...</p> <p>This paper examines the significance of X in the rise of ...</p> <p>This paper discusses ...</p> <p>This paper attempts to show that ...</p> <p>In this paper I argue that ...</p> <p>This paper deals with ...</p>	<p><b>Highlighting a problem/question</b></p> <p>However, a major problem with X is ...</p> <p>However, research has consistently shown that ...</p> <p>What is not yet clear is the impact of X on ...</p> <p>No previous study has ...</p> <p>There has been little quantitative analysis of ...</p> <p>In addition, no research has been found that surveyed ...</p> <p>So far this method has only been applied to ...</p> <p>So far, however, there has been little discussion about ...</p>
<p><b>Indicating the aim and significance</b></p> <p>The central thesis of this paper is ...</p> <p>The aim of the paper is to provide ...</p> <p>The purpose of this paper is ...</p> <p>The study offers some important insights into ...</p> <p>This study aims to contribute to this growing area of research by exploring ...</p> <p>This study provides an exciting opportunity to advance our knowledge of ...</p>	<p><b>Outlining the structure</b></p> <p>This paper has been/ is divided into ...</p> <p>The first part deals with ...</p> <p>This paper begins by ... It will then go on to ...</p> <p>The first section of this paper will examine ...</p> <p>This paper first gives a brief overview of ...</p> <p>The third chapter is concerned with ...</p> <p>The fourth section presents ...</p> <p>Chapter 6 analyses the results of ...</p> <p>Finally, the conclusion ...</p> <p>Finally, areas for further research ...</p>
<p><b>Defining terms &amp; explaining keywords</b></p> <p>X can be defined as ... It encompasses ...</p> <p>The term X refers to ...</p> <p>Throughout this paper, the term X will refer to/ will be used to refer to ...</p> <p>In this paper, the acronym/ abbreviation XYZ will be used to ...</p> <p>For Smith (2002, p. 7), X means/ refers to ...</p> <p>According to Smith (2002, p. 7), X can be defined as follows: "..."</p>	<p><b>Impersonal and cautious language</b></p> <p>It can be said that ...</p> <p>It is believed that ...</p> <p>It is thought that ...</p> <p>It is a widely held view that ...</p> <p>According to recent reports, ...</p> <p>Recent research has suggested that ...</p>



<p><b>Starting a section</b></p> <p>The purpose of this chapter is to ... It begins by ...</p> <p>This chapter describes and discusses ...</p> <p>This chapter is divided into ... The first ...</p> <p>The next chapter is concerned with ...</p> <p>This chapter describes and discusses ...</p>	<p><b>Moving from one section to the next</b></p> <p>So far this paper/ chapter has ... The following section will discuss ...</p> <p>Before proceeding to examine X, it will be necessary to ...</p> <p>Having defined what is meant by X, I will now move on to discuss ...</p> <p>This chapter has demonstrated that ...</p> <p>It is now necessary to explain ...</p>
<p><b>Referencing authors</b></p> <p>According to Smith (2003, p. 74-77), ...</p> <p>As noted by Smith (2003, p. 60) X is ...</p> <p>Smith (2013) points out/ argues/ maintains/ claims/ concludes that ...</p> <p>Smith (2013) argues for/ offers/ proposes/ suggests ...</p> <p>Similarly, Nicoladis (2006, p. 9) found that X ...</p> <p>This view is supported by Jones (2000) who writes that ...</p> <p>Unlike Smith, Jones (2013, p. 3) argues that ...</p> <p>In contrast to Smith, Jones (2013, p. 12) argues that ...</p> <p>Some writers (e.g. Smith, 2002) have attempted to ...</p> <p>Much of the available literature on X deals with the question of ...</p> <p>Other researchers, however, who have looked at X, have found ...</p> <p>Jones (2010, p. 3-15), for example, ...</p> <p>As Smith argues: "...” (Smith, 2000, p. 150).</p> <p>As Carnoy (2004, p. 215) states: "...”.</p> <p>A number of researchers have reported ...</p> <p>Previous studies have reported ... (Smith, 1985; Jones, 1987; Johnson, 1992).</p> <p>Numerous studies have attempted to explain ... (for example, Smith, 1996; Kelly, 1998; ...)</p> <p>A number of studies have found that ... (Smith, 2003; Jones, 2004).</p>	<p><b>Showing and discussing results</b></p> <p>Overall, these studies highlight the need for ...</p> <p>One has to take into account that ...</p> <p>Therefore, ...</p> <p>These examples show/ highlight ...</p> <p>Sachs concludes: "...” (Sachs, 1992a, p. 156).</p> <p>These results suggest that ...</p> <p>Overall, these results indicate that ...</p> <p>Together these results provide important insights into ...</p> <p>In summary, these results show that ...</p> <p>The results in this chapter indicate that ...</p> <p>The current study found that ...</p> <p>The most interesting finding was ...</p> <p>The results of this study show/ indicate that ...</p>
	<p><b>Conclusion and future research</b></p> <p>This paper has argued that ...</p> <p>This paper has discussed ...</p> <p>The main goal of the current study was ...</p> <p>This study has shown that ...</p> <p>These findings suggest that in general ...</p> <p>Further research should be done to ...</p> <p>Further research might explore/ investigate ...</p>

**Adapted from**

Morley, J. (2014). Academic Phrasebank. A compendium of commonly used phrasal elements in academic English in PDF format. Retrieved from <https://nnkt.uh.edu.vn/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Academiv-Phrase-Bank.pdf>

Funded by



Economic Affairs,  
Labour and Statistics

Updated: January 2023