Useful Linking Words and Phrases For Essays

To indicate a contrast:

however       on the other hand       alternatively       in contrast       instead
conversely    on the contrary       in fact            rather            in comparison
another possibility -       but       better/worst still
despite this  in spite of       nevertheless       notwithstanding
for all that  yet       although       all the same

To provide an illustration

for example       that is       that is to say       for instance       say
in other words                               namely       such as       as follows
typical of this/such       on such       a typical/particular/key example
including       especially       not least       in particular       notability
chiefly       mainly       most importantly

To extend a point

similarly       equally       likewise       too       also
furthermore       Indeed       in the same way
besides       above all       as well       in addition

To show cause and effect/conclusion:

so       therefore       accordingly       thus       hence       then
as result/consequence       resulting from/in consequence of this
in this/that case       consequently       because of this/that
for this reason       owing to/due to the fact
it follows that       this suggests that       accepting/assuming this
in conclusion       it might be concluded from this       this implies
in short       to conclude       in all       in brief

To show the next step:

first(ly)       second(ly)       to begin/start with       in the first/second place
first and foremost       first and most importantly
another       then       after       next       afterwards       third(ly)
finally       ultimately       lastly       last but not least

From: http://web.apu.ac.uk/stu_services/essex/learningsupport/OL-EssayWriting1.htm