

Expressions for introducing ideas, concluding phrases and paragraph transition phrases

Here's a **host of set phrases** and doyen-worthy expressions for **introducing ideas in compositions**, ideal for **B2-C1 students** aiming to write polished and varied texts. These are **grouped by tone and purpose**, so students can select appropriately depending on their writing style (e.g. formal, argumentative, reflective, narrative). **Concluding phrases** and **paragraph transition phrases** to be found at the end.

◆ Neutral / General Introductions

Use when gently introducing a topic or idea.

- One might begin by noting that...
 - It is worth considering that...
 - At the heart of the matter lies...
 - A key issue to examine is...
 - To set the scene...
 - Let us start by asking...
 - It can be argued that...
 - The question arises whether...
 - The topic at hand concerns...
 - An initial observation suggests that...
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◆ Personal Voice / Reflective Tone

Use in more personal, narrative, or reflective essays.

- I have often wondered whether...
 - In my experience, it seems that...
 - It's hard not to notice that...
 - One cannot help but think that...
 - Looking back, it becomes clear that...
 - From where I stand...
 - I would argue that...
 - What struck me most was...
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◆ Presenting a Strong Point

Use when you want to introduce a **main idea or argument** with impact.

- It cannot be denied that...
 - The evidence clearly shows that...
 - A compelling case can be made for...
 - The most striking example of this is...
 - Perhaps the most significant factor is...
 - There is growing concern that...
 - More than anything else, this reveals that...
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◆ Adding a New Point

Use when building an argument or expanding.

- In addition to this...
 - Another aspect worth mentioning is...
 - Furthermore, it is important to note...
 - What's more...
 - A further point to consider is...
 - On top of that...
 - Let us now turn to...
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◆ Introducing Contrast / Counterpoint

Useful for argumentative or discursive writing.

- On the other hand...
 - In contrast to this...
 - However, some argue that...
 - Yet not everyone agrees...
 - Despite this, it could be said that...
 - A different perspective suggests...
 - While this may be true, it is also true that...
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◆ Thematic Introductions (Doyen-Style Openings)

Elegant and more literary ways to begin or introduce ideas:

- Since the dawn of time, humanity has wrestled with...
 - In every age, society has faced the challenge of...
 - History has shown time and again that...
 - Few topics spark such fierce debate as...
 - At the crossroads of progress and tradition lies...
 - As the old saying goes, "___" — and this holds true today.
 - Whether we like it or not, the truth remains that...
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◆ Creative / Poetic Leads

These are more stylistic and may suit expressive or reflective essays.

- In the quiet corners of everyday life, we find...
 - Beneath the surface of ordinary events lies...
 - Between the lines of history, we read stories of...
 - Like the tip of an iceberg, this issue reveals far more below...
 - If society is a mirror, this issue reflects our deepest fears and hopes.
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These are **more high-functioning English set phrases** to introduce ideas, sorted for **style, purpose, and elegance** — just the kind of language that helps students level up to that B2–C1 fluency in writing.

◆ Framing the Issue / Introducing the Topic

More polished ways to start your composition or introduce a key idea:

- The issue at stake is...
 - Few would dispute the importance of...
 - In recent years, attention has turned to...
 - This topic sits at the heart of many debates today.
 - Whether in politics, education, or daily life, this idea resonates widely.
 - Recent developments have brought this issue to the forefront.
 - There has been a growing awareness that...
 - Much has been said about..., but less about...
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◆ Launching a Perspective or Line of Thought

Use when introducing your own viewpoint or opening an angle.

- From a practical standpoint...
 - Seen through a different lens...
 - When viewed historically...
 - As a matter of principle...
 - The matter deserves a closer look.
 - This brings us to the broader question of...
 - At a deeper level, one might consider...
 - The situation calls for a re-evaluation of...
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◆ Injecting Authority or Evidence

Phrases that signal you're drawing from external ideas or general truth.

- According to many experts,...
 - Research suggests that...
 - As studies have shown...
 - Public opinion tends to support the idea that...
 - Experience has taught us that...
 - Statistics paint a troubling picture of...
 - Common wisdom holds that...
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◆ Hypothetical or Thought-Provoking Openings

Great for critical thinking and speculative writing.

- What if we imagined a world where...?
 - Suppose for a moment that...
 - If one were to reverse the roles, would the outcome change?
 - Imagine the consequences if...
 - Consider the case of...
 - Had things turned out differently,...
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◆ Classy Connectors for Flow

Use to move smoothly from one idea to another.

- Having established that,...
 - With this in mind,...
 - This leads naturally to the question of...
 - In light of the above,...
 - Building on this idea,...
 - Taking this a step further,...
 - This begs the question...
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◆ Classic Essay-Starters (Universally Useful)

These will never go out of style — clean, clear, effective.

- Nowadays, it is commonly believed that...
 - There are many opinions about...
 - People often wonder whether...
 - One of the most discussed issues today is...
 - In today's world,...
 - It is often said that...
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◆ Advanced Literary-Flavored Openers (Elegant & Elevated)

For students reaching for that poetic, thought-provoking edge.

- The threads of this issue weave through many layers of society.
 - Like a shadow that follows us, this topic demands attention.
 - At the intersection of thought and action lies...
 - Silence speaks volumes when it comes to...
 - The echo of past decisions lingers in today's dilemmas.
 - Beneath the statistics lies a very human story.
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Tips for Use:

- Vary your opening phrases across paragraphs.
 - Match tone to task: neutral for facts, elegant for opinion, creative for narratives.
 - Don't overuse poetic phrases—sprinkle them sparingly for effect.
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Here's a categorized list of **concluding phrases** and **paragraph transition phrases** — perfect for B2–C1 level writing in compositions, with **variety, elegance, and clarity** in mind. Finnish translations are provided to support learners.

◆ Concluding Phrases (to end a composition or section)

These help wrap up your ideas clearly and memorably.

◆ Common & Clear

- **In conclusion** – *Yhteenvetona*
- **To sum up** – *Yhteenvetona / Tiivistystyi*
- **All things considered** – *Kaiken kaikkiaan*
- **On the whole** – *Kokonaisuudessaan*
- **In short / In brief** – *Lyhyesti sanottuna*

◆ Formal & Academic

- **It can therefore be concluded that...** – *Voidaan siis päätellä, että...*
- **The evidence clearly suggests that...** – *Todisteet viittaavat selvästi siihen, että...*
- **This leads us to conclude that...** – *Tämä johtaa siihen johtopäätökseen, että...*

◆ Thoughtful & Reflective

- **Ultimately, what matters most is...** – *Lopulta tärkeintä on...*
- **Perhaps the greatest lesson is that...** – *Ehkä suurin oppi on, että...*
- **One is left to wonder whether...** – *Lukijalle jää mietittäväksi, onko...*

◆ Poetic or Stylish

- **The final word belongs to...** – *Viimeinen sana kuuluu...*
 - **And so, the story continues...** – *Ja niin tarina jatkuu...*
 - **Time will tell how this unfolds.** – *Aika näyttää, miten tämä kehittyy.*
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◆ Transition Phrases (between paragraphs or ideas)

Use these to **move smoothly** from one paragraph or idea to the next.

◆ Adding New Information

- **Moreover** – *Lisäksi*
- **What's more** – *Sitä paitsi*
- **In addition** – *Lisäksi*
- **Another point to consider is...** – *Toinen huomionarvoinen seikka on...*

◆ Contrasting or Showing Opposition

- **However** – *Kuitenkin*
- **On the other hand** – *Toisaalta*
- **Nevertheless / Nonetheless** – *Siitä huolimatta*
- **In contrast** – *Päinvastoin / Vastakohtana*

◆ Giving Examples or Clarification

- **For instance / For example** – *Esimerkiksi*
- **To illustrate this...** – *Tätä havainnollistaakseni...*
- **In other words...** – *Toisin sanoen...*
- **That is to say...** – *Eli / Toisin ilmaistuna*

◆ Showing Cause and Effect

- **As a result** – *Tämän seurauksena*
- **Therefore** – *Siksi / Sen vuoksi*
- **Consequently** – *Tästä syystä*
- **This explains why...** – *Tämä selittää, miksi...*

◆ Returning to a Previous Point

- **As mentioned earlier** – *Kuten aiemmin mainittiin*
- **Going back to the idea of...** – *Palaten ajatukseen...*
- **This links back to...** – *Tämä liittyy takaisin...*

◆ Building a Sequence

- **First of all / Firstly** – *Ensinnäkin*
- **Secondly / Next** – *Toiseksi / Seuraavaksi*
- **Finally / Lastly** – *Lopuksi*