

The Academic Phrasebank is an online resource by John Morley of the University of Manchester. Morley collected phrases from dissertations and journal articles to create the resource, which is designed to support academic writers. Access the site here: <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>.

When you first access the resource, it would be helpful to read the introduction on the homepage for context. Also open the link at the end of the opening paragraph to learn about the background research. Morley shares results there from surveying academics, who were asked when they considered it appropriate to reuse phrases. He suggests you adapt the phrases before incorporating them in your work.

Adjust the phrases to share the exact meaning you intend as well as to reflect your style of writing. Avoid using a phrase if the words, style, or complexity of the structure do not match your writing style.

### **Topics reflecting sections of a research paper**

Across the top of the Academic Phrasebank are topics that relate to the traditional parts of a research paper. You will find phrases there from introductions, results, discussions, and conclusion sections of academic texts as well as phrases for referring to sources. Within a topic, the phrases are further divided into subtopics. In **Introducing Work**, the subtopics include: Establishing the importance of the topic for the discipline, Stating the purpose of the current research, and Outlining the structure.

Open **Introducing Work** and then scroll down to open **Stating the purpose of the current research**. The first phrase shared is “The specific objective of this study was to.” That’s a relatively short phrase that appears thousands of times in Google Scholar. Further down, there’s a phrase containing the words “aims to unravel the mysteries surrounding.” Consider avoiding using phrasebank language that has such unique style. Your reader might wonder who wrote it. Within a subtopic, consider which phrases most closely match your intended meaning and purpose. Adapt the phrases before using them.

### **Topics reflecting general language functions**

Along the left side of the homepage are topics reflecting language functions that might be useful throughout your paper or journal article draft. These include **Being Cautious**, **Defining terms**, and **Signalling transition**.

Open the **Being Cautious** topic and then the second subtopic, **Being cautious when giving explanations**. This subtopic shares some useful language (may, could, might, possible, probably) for sharing caution in academic writings. Open the **Signalling Transition** topic and then the subtopic **Reintroducing a topic**. Sample phrases here include: As discussed above and As previously stated.

### **Related Resources**

Visit our DukeWritesSuite for a screencast tutorial: <https://dukewritesuite.com/academic-phrasebank/>. Video tutorials for additional online resources are also provided there.