

Adverbials as an Alternative to Longer Phrases

Some adverbs are used at the beginning of a sentence to refer to the whole sentence. They show how the sentence which follows relates to the rest of the text.

Using sentence adverbials makes your writing easier to read, because you show connections between parts of your text. They can also make your writing more concise and formal in tone.

Compare the quite informal phrases on the left with their more formal equivalents on the right.

More formal phrase	Adverbial alternative
As a result ...	Consequently,
When we consider all the points ...	On balance,
At the same time ...	Meanwhile,
Knowing what we know now ...	With hindsight,
What is the most important thing for us to consider ...	Fundamentally,
Luckily for us ...	Conveniently,
Strangely enough ...	Curiously,
There can be little doubt ...	Undoubtedly,
Another way is ...	Alternatively,

This is not an exhaustive list. Make a note of other sentence adverbials you come across when reading formal texts.