

Transitional Words



UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

Overview

In order for your writing to be **coherent**, it must **flow** smoothly from one point to the next. One way to ensure that your reader can **follow** your argument as they move between sentences and paragraphs is through the use of **transitions**.



Transitions

Transitions are words and short phrases that help **guide** your reader through your writing. They allow for **smooth progression** from sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph, and help your reader make certain **connections** between ideas.

Examples

- For example, beginning a sentence with "**however**" alerts the reader that the upcoming sentence will somehow contrast with the previous one.
- On the other hand, "**in addition**", informs the reader that you are adding another fact or idea to the topic being discussed.

*Notice that, in the previous sentences, the transitions for example and on the other hand were used to show a specific case and a contrast between ideas.



To show ADDITION

again
also
and
and then
another
besides
but
also
equally
important
finally
first
further
furthermore
in addition
in fact
last
lastly
likewise
moreover
next

To show CONTRAST

although
anyhow
anyway
at the same time
but
despite this
even though
for all that
however
in any event
in contrast
instead
nevertheless
not with standing
on the contrary
on the other hand
otherwise
still
yet

To indicate PLACE

above
across
adjacent to
below
beneath
beside
between
beyond
farther
here
nearby
nearer
on the
opposite side
opposite to
over
there
under

To indicate TIME

after a few days
afterward
at last
at length
before
between
finally
immediately
in the meantime
later
meanwhile
next
soon
then
while

To show **SUMMARY** or **REPETITION**

as has been noted
as I have said
finally
in brief
in closing
in conclusion
in essence
in other words
in short
in summary
on the whole
to conclude
to sum up

To introduce a **RESULT**

accordingly
as a result
because
consequently
for this reason
hence
so
then
therefore
thereupon
thus

To introduce an EXAMPLE

a few of these are
especially
for example
for instance
in particular
let us consider
an example
the following
you can see this in

TO INDICATE AMOUNT

few
greater
many
more than
most over
under
several
smaller
some

To indicate PURPOSE

all things considered
for this purpose
to this end
with this in mind
with this object

To introduce a LESS IMPORTANT POINT

of course
no doubt
doubtless
to be sure
granted (that)
certainly

To show
COMPARISON

in like manner
in the same way
likewise
similarly

To RETURN TO YOUR
POINT after a
counterargument

still
nevertheless
notwithstanding

To STRENGTHEN
a point

essentially
indeed
truly
undeniably

To CONCEDE a point

although
though
whereas
without a doubt

Tip #1

Only use transitions when **appropriate**. Use them when you're emphasizing a point, moving from one idea to another, or making connections.

Tip #2

Choose the **right** kind of transition. As viewed previously, all words and phrases are used for different situations. Make sure that you know the meanings, connotations, and purpose behind the transition you're choosing to use.

