

Transitional Words & Phrases

Transitional words and expressions help connect ideas within and between paragraphs. They do this by showing relationships, such as addition or contrast or result and so forth.

Teacher: Your paper doesn't show a smooth flow of thoughts. You need to add transitions between ideas and paragraphs.

Student: I have no idea what a transition is. What are some words or expressions that I can use to make my paper flow?

To Show:	Use these Words or Expressions:
Introduction of a statement	First of all, at first, in the first place, initially, speaking of, to begin with, to start with, concerning, regarding, in relation to, in my opinion, I believe, it is my belief that, from my point of view, it seems to me that, I maintain that, I question whether, I (dis) agree, there is no doubt that, changing the subject, by the way.
Addition	And, and then, again, in addition (to), additionally, also, besides, equally important, furthermore, moreover, further, too, as well, what's more, not only ... but also, on top of that, plus, apart from
Comparison/ Similarity	Likewise, similarly, whereas, in the same way, by the same token, in comparison with, compared to (with)
Purpose or reason	For this purpose, for this reason, that's why, the reason (why), to this end, with this in mind, with this object, so, so that, in order to, in hopes of, in the hope that, for fear that, the thing is, for one thing
Contrast/ Exception	But, although, even though, otherwise, while, whereas, in contrast, however, instead, on the contrary, on the other hand, nevertheless, still, yet, in spite of, in spite of the fact that, despite, despite the fact that, unlike, regardless of, although this may be true, except, except for, apart from
Emphasis	In fact, as a matter of fact, of course, certainly, indeed, even so, in particular, particularly, unquestionably, without a doubt, surely, add to this, more importantly

To show:	Use these Words or Expressions:
Example	For example, for instance, as an illustration, to illustrate, specifically, to demonstrate, a case in point, take the case of, in this case, in this situation, such as
Generality	In general, generally speaking, for the most part, as a rule, on the whole, usually, normally
Result/Consequence Cause and Effect	Because, because of, due to, since, as, as a result, consequently, hence, then, therefore, thus, accordingly, now that, after all
Time relationship	After, before, when, while, after a while, since, afterward(s), previously, at last, at present, at this point, in the meantime, meantime, nowadays, presently, shortly (after), lately, now, from now on, simultaneously, so far, soon, as soon as, temporarily, then, thereafter, until, up until now, as time goes by, at the same time, eventually, for the time being.
Sequence of Events	First, second, third, following that, then, next, later, finally, before this, after this (that)
Condition	as long as, if, even if, unless, on condition that, providing that, provided that, in the event of, in the event that, or (else), in case of, in case (that), in that case, in such a case, that being the case
Summary /Conclusion	Finally, in conclusion, to conclude, in short, in summary, in brief, in the end, on the whole, as can be seen, as has been said, as I have said before, as I have noted, for the reasons above, for these reasons