

Transitional Words and Phrases

Effective transitions establish logical relationships between sentences, between paragraphs, and between whole sections of text. The writer uses them to recall for the reader that which has already been said and to help the reader anticipate that which is about to follow.

Following are some common transitional words and phrases; one or more from each category is used in context.

Transitions signalling addition

equally important	likewise	also
besides	by the same token	and
too	similarly	again
what is more	as well as	at the same time
in addition	further, furthermore	moreover

*I have a degree in Early Childhood Education; **furthermore**, I have six years' experience working with young children.*

Or

***In addition to** my degree in Early Childhood Education, I have six years experience working with young children.*

Transitions signalling time

after; after a while	earlier	thereafter	next
afterward	before	until	then
as long as	in the past	in the future	meanwhile
as soon as	lately	ultimately	at length
at last; finally	presently	first; first of all	later
formerly	shortly	second; secondly	now
since	so far	while	in turn
subsequently	simultaneously	in the meantime	

*They will write their exams from 4-6:00 p.m., and **immediately afterward**, they will proceed to the banquet.*

Transitions signalling comparison

similarly	likewise	also
at the same time	in the same way	in comparison
by the same token	in turn	in a like manner

Sales of existing homes went up 2 % last month. Similarly, construction of new homes rose as well. Or ***In the same way*** that sales of existing homes went up 2 % last month, construction of new homes rose as well..

Transitions signalling contrast

but at the same time	regardless	in contrast
despite that	though	conversely
even so	nonetheless	notwithstanding
even though	nevertheless	for all that
on the other hand	however	but
in spite of	yet	whereas
on the contrary	still	

*The settlers worked very hard; **however**, they did not manage to harvest sufficient food to ensure their survival.* Or

***Though** the settlers worked very hard, they did not manage to harvest sufficient food to ensure their survival.*

Transitions signalling cause or effect

for this purpose	consequently	therefore
since	as a consequence	hence
then	so	thus
to this end	as a result	in short
with this object	thereupon	
because	accordingly	

*The captain ignored his own good judgement, and **consequently**, the ship was lost at sea.* Or ***Because*** the captain ignored his own good judgement, the ship was lost at sea.

Transitions signalling example

such as	for instance
in particular	an illustration of
to demonstrate	to illustrate
even	namely
specifically	

Newfoundland offers many amenities unavailable in most of North America; **for example**, we have very little air pollution.

Transitions signalling explanation

indeed	in other words	put another way
in fact	simply stated	that is

He had a successful term; **that is**, he attained A's in all his courses.

Transitions signalling concession

after all	of course
at the same time	actually
even though	

I was disappointed in The Titanic; **at the same time**, I have to agree that it was a technically masterful production.

Or

Even though I was disappointed in The Titanic, I have to agree that it was a technically masterful production.

Transitions signalling summary or conclusion

in essence	in conclusion	in brief
altogether	in closing	to conclude
as has been said	in summary	in retrospect
as has been indicated	to summarize	in other words
to sum up	in simpler terms	all in all
	on the whole	

Janice had rewritten all her lecture notes, participated in three group reviews, and reread all assigned readings; **in short**, she was prepared to write the exam