

Transitional Words and Phrases

Transitions are words and phrases that establish logical relationships between sentences, between paragraphs, and between whole sections of text. **Transitions** help you as a writer to remain on track, and more importantly they serve as **sign posts** for the reader to show him or her exactly where you are going. First, be absolutely clear what relationship you wish to express. Following is an expanded collection of transitional words and phrases.

Transitions to add information

and
again
another thing is
at the same time
also
apart from this
as well as
besides
by the same token
furthermore
likewise
in addition
moreover
similarly
equally important
not only but also
too
what's more

Transitions To indicate time and order Relationship

after
after that
after a while
afterward
at this point
at the same time
as
as long as
as soon as
to begin with
first
first of all
at first
in the first place
second
secondly
in the second place
third
next
later
later on
following that
before
when (event)
whenever
at a time when
while
meanwhile
in the meantime
eventually
subsequently
in the past
in the future
in hindsight
just/ just as
just before/ just after
for the time being
now / for now
in turn
soon after (that)
once
so far

Transitions to compare things (show similarities)

in comparison
in the same way
similarly
in like manner
in like fashion
also
likewise
at the same time

Transitions to contrast things (show differences) and / or indicate concession

after all
at the same time
but
but then
but at the same time
even though
even so
in contrast
on the contrary
on the other hand
otherwise
in spite of
in spite of this
despite
despite the fact that
however
nevertheless
nonetheless
yet / and yet
still
instead
regardless of
while
given that
granted that
for all that
although this may be true

Transitions to show Cause and Effect

accordingly
as a consequence
consequently
as a result
because
because of this
since
for this reason
for this purpose
that's why
so
so that
for
therefore
hence
thus
due to
owing to this
to this end
with this object
following that
it follows that
on account of this
in view of the fact
in short
in the long run
in the final analysis
the bottom line is

Transitions to show a purpose or reason

again
for this reason
for this purpose
the reason(s) why
so / so that
in order to
in order that
with this in mind
in the hope that
in hopes of/ with hopes of
for fear that

Transitions to explain, clarify, or restate

in other words
in essence
in fact
in brief
in short
that is
that is to say
this means
that mean that
to be more precise
to put it another way
to put it differently
and so again
simply stated
more simply stated
in simpler terms
at length
the thing is
to recap
namely
or rather

Transitions to generalize

as a rule
for the most part
generally
generally speaking
in general
on the whole
normally
in most cases
by and large
as usual
usually

Transitions to emphasize a point

above all
actually
absolutely
as a matter of fact
in fact
indeed
certainly
surely
especially
in particular
particularly
notably
unquestionably
without a doubt
anyway
mainly
of course

Transitions to show a contradiction

actually
as a matter of fact
in fact
Having said that

Transition to show condition

if
then
unless
only if
provided that
providing
even if
on the condition that
in that case / in such a case
That being the case

Transitions to indicate example

e.g.

for example

for instance

in particular

particularly

specifically

to illustrate

to demonstrate

an illustration of

in this situation

on this occasion

in this case

Transitions to indicate the obvious

after all

as one might expect

clearly

it goes without saying

naturally

obviously

surely

Transitions to summarize

finally

in conclusion

to conclude

in closing

in summary

to summarize

all in all

to sum up

to rap up

after all

in retrospect

in other words

as has been noted

as we have seen

as has been said

as has been indicated

as I have said before

all things considered

Transitions to indicate Attitude

admittedly

certainly

fortunately

unfortunately

luckily

strangely enough

undoubtedly

Transitions to show location and direction

among

above

against

around

around the corner from

along

along the sidewalk

along the road

along the river

among these papers

among the trees

across

across from

apart from

away / away from

adjacent to

behind

by

near / nearby

into

below

off

beneath

on top of

beside

next to

throughout

between

throughout the country

throughout the world

down the road

to the right / to the left

in back of

on the right / on the left

in front of

here / there

inside

to the east / to the west

opposite

in the opposition direction

outside

under

in the middle

Transitions to change the time of action

after an hour

ahead of time

at sundown

at dawn

at once

at that moment

at the moment

after three weeks

after months of arguments

at daybreak

at dinner / lunch

around noon

not long after

in the evening

in the summer

in the end

that night

that spring

today

tomorrow

that morning

once a week/ year

once in a while

from time to time

when the time comes

early in the day

for the moment

for a while

late in the day

in a short (little) while

late in life/ in later years

when I was (a baby, younger)

yesterday

from then on

within an hour