

TRANSITIONS

Transitional Words & Phrases

The word transition means change or passage. Transitions establish relationships between parts of your essay that a reader will need in order to fully understand the points you are making.

Effective transitions are achieved in two ways: by using transitional words and expressions, and by carefully repeating words, pronouns, phrases and parallel constructions. Some of the relationships that transitions can express are equality, comparison, contrast, order of time, reinforcement, development and consequence.

Some transitions that express equality			
in addition	furthermore	moreover	next
another	likewise	also	much as
Some transitions that express comparison			
like	similarly	in the same way	of equal importance
also	both	in comparison	next in importance
as	likewise	still	
Some transitions that express contrast or change			
but	on the other hand	in contrast	conversely
whereas	however	on the contrary	yet
although	despite	still	otherwise
nevertheless	even though		
Some transitions that express a logical order or time sequence			
first	next	thereafter	then
while	presently	after/afterwards	before
during	meanwhile	after all	formerly
subsequently	at the end	when	at last
ultimately	finally		

Some transitions that express reinforcement or emphasis			
it is valuable to note	as a matter of fact	special attention should be paid to	remember that
most important	it is especially significant that	principally	keep in mind
the bigger advantage/disadvantage/	in other words	indeed	
a primary part	clearly	the best thing/the worst thing	it is apparent that
most of all/least of all	not only . . . but also		
Some transitions that express development			
for instance	for example	to illustrate	as an illustration
such as	like	this means	in addition
moreover	furthermore		
Some transitions that express consequence or summary			
finally	last of all	thus	as a result
therefore	then	as a result	in summary
to conclude	consequently	in short	clearly
this means that	it is obvious	because	

Paragraph Transitions

Transitions show the logical relationship between ideas and sentences in a paragraph. Effective transitions are achieved in two ways: by using transitional words and expressions and by using parallel constructions and corresponding words, pronouns, and phrases.

Note: Many transitional words cannot be used as conjunctions. When these words are used to connect two clauses in a sentence, a semi-colon must be used after the first clause or the two clauses must be separate sentences.

Transitional Words and Expressions	Intention or Relationship
for example, for instance, such as, including, in other words, that is	Amplification
since, because, in order to, so that, in this way, as a result, for this reason, hence, thus, therefore, accordingly, consequently, if... then	Cause and effect
despite, although, in spite of, even though, accepting the data, granted that, of course	Concession
but, still, yet, though, while, whereas, conversely, however, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand, despite, although	Contrast or change
similarly, likewise, in addition, also, too, just as..., so too..., much as..., at the same time...	Equal value
indeed, moreover, besides, in fact, unless, above all, more important, add to this, not only...but also	Emphasis
also, besides, moreover, furthermore, in addition	Increasing quantity
first, second, next, then, last, finally	Order
for (all) these reasons, in brief, in sum, in short, in a word, in conclusion	Summary
then, since then, thereafter, henceforth, at last, at length, afterwards, before, formerly, later, meanwhile, now, presently, previously, subsequently, ultimately, in the end, from the start, after, before, until	Time

*Adapted from Walter Pauk's How to Study in College, 2nd ed.