

Transitional Devices

Transitions are devices that reveal relationships between your sentences, paragraphs, and ideas. They are intrinsic to the order of your paper, and they help to achieve unity by relating ideas in a paper to your thesis. They should not appear excessively or appear to be tacked on at random. Preferably, they should be subtle and unobtrusive, but they should always indicate the precise connection between one idea, sentence, or paragraph, and that which follows it. Transitions help you, as a writer, to remain on track. More importantly, they serve as signposts for the reader to show him or her exactly where you are going.

First, be absolutely clear which relationship you wish to express. Then, choose the appropriate word or phrase. Here are some examples of the kinds of relationships you might wish to show and the words that will help you.

CONSEQUENCE:	therefore, then, thus, accordingly, as a result, consequently, as well as
SIMILARITY:	similarly, likewise, analogous to, correspondingly, coupled with
COMPARISON/ CONTRAST:	in comparison, by comparison, compared to, likewise, similarly, however, but, yet, nevertheless, except, on the contrary, in contrast, whereas, conversely, rather, meanwhile, still, although, nonetheless
SUPPLEMENTATION:	in addition, further, furthermore, also, moreover, again, besides, next, and, equally important, what is more
EXAMPLE:	for instance, for example, in this case, in this situation, to demonstrate, to illustrate, as an illustration
CONCESSION:	granted that, still, although, though, while, of course, while it may be true
INSISTENCE:	anyway, indeed, in fact, obviously, of course
SEQUENCE:	first, second, third, finally, afterward, subsequently, consequently, hence, next, following, then
RESTATEMENT:	that is, in other words, in short, in essence
SUMMARY:	in conclusion, to conclude, to summarize, altogether, in sum, in summary, on the whole, in brief, therefore, accordingly, as a result, thus, finally
TIME:	afterward, later, earlier, formerly, subsequently, at the same time, so far, simultaneously, until now, this time, before, concurrently, previously, while
PURPOSE:	so that, to that end, for this reason
RESTRICTION:	provided that, contingent upon, as long as