



Transitional Words and Phrases

Transitional expressions can indicate the direction of your thought as you pass from one topic to another. They provide logical and coherent organization allowing the paper to flow from the first supporting point to the last. They also show that you are beginning a new idea or subtopic in your writing.

Like signposts, they inform your reader that one part or stage of the discussion has ended, and they also give a hint of what connection the next section of thought has with the just-completed section. In this way, a transition helps your reader follow the flow of your ideas and identify the relations between separate ideas. The following examples illustrate how a transition placed at the beginning of a new paragraph not only shows a step forward in the thought, but also relates to the new material that preceded it.

On the other hand, going out tonight would reduce my stress level, and then I'd probably study better anyway.

(The transition shows that the new paragraph is to present ideas that contrast with those the preceding paragraph or section of the essay.)

Consequently, I may need to re-take the course.

(The transition shows that the new paragraph is to explain a result of statements previously made.)

In addition to retaking the course, I need to pay back my parents for the tuition.

Finally, the best thing about me is that I love to spend time with my friends.

Furthermore, my study time suffered from the amount of time I dedicated to socializing throughout the year.

Transitional words and phrases may also help you achieve sentence variety, whether you place them at the beginning of a sentence or after the subject of the sentence.

Time Transitions

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| soon | immediately | when |
| not long after | instantly | whenever |
| at length | at this instant | next |
| at last | suddenly | as |
| finally | now | once |
| some time ago | without delay | since |
| later | in the first place | occasionally |
| afterwards | forthwith | henceforward |
| presently | straightaway | then |
| from this time on | quickly | meanwhile |
| from time to time | at this point | thereupon |
| after | a few minutes later | in the meantime |
| before | formerly | sometimes |
| until | yesterday | in a moment |
| at present | later in the day | shortly |
| all of a sudden | since then | whereupon |

Additions & Conclusions

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| and | equally important | in the same way |
| moreover | much more interesting | then, too |
| too | of even greater appeal | consequently |
| next | just as surely | thus |
| in fact | at the outset | again |
| likewise | as mentioned | for |
| as a result | more specifically | in as much as |
| further | undoubtedly | so that |
| also | indeed it is certain | hence |
| therefore | in truth | for this reason |
| accordingly | last | under these conditions |
| in other words | over and above | first/second/third/ |
| furthermore | to conclude | in addition to |
| besides | finally | another |

Contrast & Comparison

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| but | rather | either |
| however | on the other hand | or |
| yet | although | neither |
| whereas | though | nor |
| on the contrary | as | quite as evident |
| on the other hand | as if | equally important |
| still | as though | much more interesting |
| notwithstanding | in spite of | of even greater appeal |
| in contrast to | otherwise | just as surely |
| nevertheless | similarly | likewise |

Place

from
 where
 beyond
 over
 in the middle
 around
 here
 there
 near
 in front of
 in the distance
 farther
 here and there
 above
 below
 at the right
 before
 between
 in the foreground
 on this side
 beside
 wherever
 opposite

**Reason, Condition,
Purpose, Result**

inevitably
 in as much as
 in order that
 under these conditions
 as a result
 because
 for this purpose
 in this way
 since
 hence
 if
 thus
 provided that
 so that
 for this reason
 therefore
 granted that
 on that account
 admittedly
 notwithstanding
 in case
 unless
 consequently

Emphasis & Repetition

for
 for example
 in particular
 for instance
 in other words
 in fact
 in the same way
 that is to say
 certainly
 indeed
 undoubtedly
 as mentioned
 more specifically
 of course
 to be sure
 on that account
 thus
 therefore
 naturally
 obviously
 emphatically
 most important
 in truth