

Transition Words and Phrases

Transition words and phrases help establish clear connections between ideas and ensure that sentences and paragraphs flow together smoothly. Groups of transition words tie directly to certain methods of organization. Use the following words and phrases in the following circumstances. Most often, transitions are NOT used at the beginning of paragraphs.

To make a point

For example, one example, another example, the most important, an example of, for instance, in other words, furthermore, as well as, again, in fact, for this reason

To show how things are alike

A similar, another, also, besides, like, likewise the same as, too, resembles, to compare, alike, comparable to, similar to, comparison, similarity, equal to, as, also, in the same way, similarly

To show how things are different

Differ, differences, unlike, on the other hand, on the contrary, but, yet, opposite from, not the same, to contrast, dissimilar, different from, by comparison, but, yet, otherwise, still, although, even though

To add information

One other, another, also, in addition, equally important, just as important, next, along with, besides, plus, most of all, added to, furthermore, again, also, and, for example, for instance, finally, as well, moreover,

To indicate time

Before, after, during, meanwhile, later, yesterday, as soon as, until, then, in the meantime, sometimes, about, at, first, second, third, today, tomorrow, next, soon, finally, then, when

To show place or location

Near, outside, inside, beside, in, into, throughout, on top of, by, behind, between, to the right of, to the left of, next to, across from, above, across, against, along, among, around, below, beneath, by, down, in back of, in front of, inside, into, near, off, on top of, outside, over, throughout, under,

To explain a problem

A problem is, a solution is, a possibility is, a concern is, could be solved by, must be resolved, could be handled by, a serious issue, the question is, the answer is, a resolution, will be resolved when,

To explain a cause or an effect

Because of, as a result, since, the reason for, the motive for, grounds for, the basis for, caused by, happened after, started when, resulted in, ended with, made, began, forced, consequently.

To conclude

To sum up, to conclude, in summation, in summary, in conclusion, the last, a final, the final, finally, in brief, all in all, as a result, therefore, lastly, certainly, clearly, definitely, in fact, obviously, surely, to sum up, truly.

To Add:

and, again, and then, besides, equally important, finally, further, furthermore, nor, too, next, lastly, what's more, moreover, in addition, first (second, etc.),

To Compare:

whereas, but, yet, on the other hand, however, nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, by comparison, where, compared to, up against, balanced against, vis a vis, but, although, conversely, meanwhile, after all, in contrast, although this may be true

To Prove:

because, for, since, for the same reason, obviously, evidently, furthermore, moreover, besides, indeed, in fact, in addition, in any case, that is

To Show Exception:

yet, still, however, nevertheless, in spite of, despite, of course, once in a while, sometimes

To Show Time:

immediately, thereafter, soon, after a few hours, finally, then, later, previously, formerly, first (second, etc.), next, and then

To Repeat:

in brief, as I have said, as I have noted, as has been noted,

To Emphasize:

definitely, extremely, obviously, in fact, indeed, in any case, absolutely, positively, naturally, surprisingly, always, forever, perennially, eternally, never, emphatically, unquestionably, without a doubt, certainly, undeniably, without reservation

To Give an Example:

for example, for instance, in this case, in another case, on this occasion, in this situation, take the case of, to demonstrate, to illustrate, as an illustration, to illustrate

To Summarize or Conclude:

in brief, on the whole, summing up, to conclude, in conclusion, as I have shown, as I have said, hence, therefore, accordingly, thus, as a result, consequently, on the whole

The following transitions are often overused and should be avoided.

To give instruction

First, second, third, to begin, next, also, in addition, after, last, finally

To explain a process

First, second, third, to start, to begin, after that, the next step, this procedure, the way to, while, when, as, after, meanwhile, in the meantime, in this manner, a final step

To Show Sequence:

first, second, third, and so forth. A, B, C, and so forth. next, then, following this, at this time, now, at this point, after, afterward, subsequently, finally, consequently, previously, before this, simultaneously, concurrently, thus, therefore, hence, next, and then, soon