

TRANSITIONS

An important aspect of writing is using transitions to take the reader from one sentence to the next and from one paragraph to the next. Transitions—both words and phrases—provide a coherent framework for the paper. These transitions will help your writing to be more easily understood.

The purpose of transitional words and phrases is to show relationship. Many possible relationships exist between sentences, paragraphs, and ideas. It is important to use the correct relationship with the correct concept. The following are some commonly used transitions for particular categories of paragraph/essay writing.

Illustration

another example	in the case of	other kinds
a second example	like	such as
for example	one example	the first instance
for instance	one instance	another instance
in addition	other examples	to illustrate

Description

To show ideas brought together:

and	also	in addition	next
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To show a contrast:

although	however	on the contrary	unlike
but	in contrast	on the other hand	yet

To show a similarity:

all	each	like	similarity	both
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To show a time sequence:

after	first	next	then	always	second, third (etc.)
often	when	before	meanwhile	soon	while

To show a position in space:

above	below	close	near	over	where
ahead of	beneath	down	nearby	there	
alongside	beside	far	next to	toward	
among	between	here	on	under	
around	beyond	in front of	on top of	underneath	
away	by	inside	outside	up	

Narration

after	before	in the meantime	soon after
again	during	later	still
always	finally	later on	suddenly
at first	first	meanwhile	then
at last	second (etc.)	next	until
at once	frequently	now	when
at the same time	immediately	soon	while

Process

after	during	later	then
afterward	eventually	meanwhile	to begin
as	finally	next	to start
as he/as she	first, second, etc.	now	until
as soon as	first of all	quickly	when
as you are	gradually	sometimes	whenever
at last	in the beginning	soon	while
at the same time	immediately	suddenly	while I am...
before	initially	the first step, etc.	
begin by	last		

Comparison or Contrast

To show similarities:

additionally	both	in the same way	similar to
again	each of	just like	similarly
also	equally	like	so
and	furthermore	likewise	too
as well as	in addition		

To show differences:

although	even though	instead of	though
but	except	nevertheless	unlike
conversely	however	on the other hand	whereas
despite	in contrast to	otherwise	while
different from	in spite of	still	yet