

# Transition Words and Phrases

Cause and Effect	Example	Contrast	Time	Comparison
Accordingly	After all	Although	After a while	Again
As a result	Even	But	Afterward	Also
Because	For example	However	As soon as	In the same way
Consequently	For instance	In contrast	At last	Just as
For this purpose	In fact	In spite of	Before	Likewise
Hence	Indeed	Instead	Currently	Once more
Since	Namely	Nevertheless	During	Similarly
So	Of course	Nonetheless	Earlier	So too
Then	Specifically	Notwithstanding	Immediately	
Therefore	Such as	On the contrary	In the meantime	<b>Summary/Conclusion</b>
Thus	To illustrate	On the other hand	Later	As a result
To this end		Regardless	Meanwhile	As we have seen
		Still	Now	Finally
<b>Place</b>	<b>Sequence</b>	Yet	Presently	In a word
Above	Again		Recently	In brief
Adjacent to	Also	<b>Repetition/Emphasis</b>	Simultaneously	In conclusion
Below	And	Again	Since	In short
Beyond	Besides	As mentioned above	So far	In the end
Closer to	Finally	As mentioned earlier	Subsequently	On the whole
Elsewhere	First	Equally important	Then	Therefore
Far	Furthermore	In fact		To conclude
Here	Last	In other words	<b>Concession</b>	To summarize
In back	Moreover	Indeed	Although it is true that	
In front	Next	Of course	Granted	
Near	Second	To emphasize	I admit that	
Nearby	Still	To repeat an earlier point	Naturally	
Opposite	Then	Truly	Of course	
There	Third			

# Transitions

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## What are transitions?

Transitions show the relationship between your ideas and help make your paper flow so that the reader can see the logical steps you took to synthesize information and arrive at your conclusions.

## What do transition words and phrases look like?

Transition words and phrases connect ideas within each paragraph. For example:

Many students in the class I teach have conflicting views on the best ice cream flavor. In fact, our class discussion turned into a spirited debate. Although we tried to remain civil, some students got overly excited. However, one student felt bored by the discussion due to her dairy allergy. As a result, she sat quietly in the back of the room. I admit that I should have considered her dietary restrictions when I proposed this topic for discussion. Therefore, I will try to be more accommodating next semester.

## What do transition sentences look like?

A transition sentence that flows between paragraphs would include reference to the ideas discussed in the above paragraph as well as an allusion to what is coming next. For example:

Cats make good pets for many families. They provide companionship to their owners and show their love by cuddling and purring. Others love cats because they reduce vermin. However, some animal lovers prefer a different domesticated animal: the dog.

Cats are loved by many, but they don't have the same reputation that dogs do as "man's best friend." The love that dogs have for their owners is unparalleled. They are loyal protectors, and many dogs have sacrificed their lives to save their owners. Other dogs provide services to individuals with disabilities. For these reasons, dogs make far better pets than cats.

## How do you know if you need to work on them?

If you are not sure whether you need to work on transitions, you might want to read the paper aloud or work with a friend to hear their opinion. If your reader is struggling to understand your thought process, that may be one indicator to take a second look at organization. Comments that suggest your writing is choppy or disjointed, it doesn't flow, or ideas don't fit together are other indicators to revise.

### Works Consulted:

Azusa Pacific University Writing Center (<http://www.apu.edu/writingcenter/resources/>); UNC-Chapel Hill Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/transitions/>); University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center (<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Transitions.html>)