



Transitional Words and Phrases

Transitional words and phrases create **coherence** by indicating relationships between ideas and help the reader understand the logic of how ideas fit together to make **unity**.

Quick Tips:

- Linking ideas with transitional words and phrases is a great way to combine two separate sentences.
- When using transitional phrases, make sure to use the one appropriate to your rhetorical situation.
- A good sentence should avoid using more than one type of transitional phrase to avoid confusion.

Addition: used to add to what was previously stated

additionally	again	along with	also	and
another	as well	besides	both-and	equally important
finally	for example	for instance	furthermore	in addition
moreover	next	other	than	too

Concession: used to acknowledge other opposing sides of an issue or argument

although	at any rate	at least	even though	granted that
in spite of	of course	still	though	while it may be true

Consequence or Result: used to show the outcome or end result of something

accordingly	all in all	as a result	because	consequently
due to	finally	for this reason	hence	in conclusion
in other words	lastly	since	so that	that
then	therefore	thus	to sum it all up	with the result

Contrast: used to show a difference

although	at the same time	but	contrarily	conversely
even though	however	in contrast	in spite of	nevertheless
nor	on one hand	on the contrary	on the other hand	or
otherwise	rather	still	while this is true	yet

Details: used to point out facts and information

especially	in detail	in particular	including	namely
to enumerate	to explain	to list	particularly	specifically



Transitional Words and Phrases Cont.

Diversion: used to introduce an aside

at any rate	by the by	by the way	incidentally	parenthetically
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Emphasis: used to stress importance or prominence

above all	again	as a matter of fact	besides	certainly
especially	for this reason	foremost	furthermore	in addition
in fact	indeed	most important	most of all	of course
surely	to emphasize	to repeat	truly	without a doubt

Examples or Illustration: used to show, clarify, or explain

as an illustration	as proof	for example	for instance	in other words
in particular	such as	thus	to be specific	to illustrate

Exception: used to acknowledge exemptions and omissions

aside from	barring	besides	except	excepting
excluding	exclusive of	other than	outside of	save

Generalizing: used to introduce broad of common statements

as a rule	as usual	for the most part	generally	generally speaking
ordinarily	usually			

Location or Space: used to show direction, where something is, or spatial relationships

above	across	adjacent	against	along
among	around	at the bottom	at the front	at the left
at the right	at the top	behind	below	beneath
beside	between	beyond	by	down
in back of	in the forefront	in the foreground	in the center	in the distance
inside	into	near	next to	off
on the side	on top of	onto	opposite	out of sight
outside	over	surrounding	under	within sight



Transitional Words and Phrases Cont.

Similarity or Comparison: used to show likeness, resemblance, or a relationship

also	analogous to	as	in like fashion	in like manner
in the same way	like	likewise	similarly	while

Suggestion: used to set up a proposal or suggestion

for this purpose	therefore	to this end	with this in mind	with this purpose
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Time: used to show time or sequence of events

Previously

at first	at the outset	before	earlier	first
formally	from the on	in the past	initially	to begin with
until	when suddenly	yesterday		

Presently

at the same time	concurrently	during the day	during the morning	during the week
for a day	for an hour	for a minute	immediately	in the meantime
meanwhile	now	nowadays	simultaneously	so far
thus far	today	until then	up to now	while

Subsequently

at last	at length	after	afterwards	as soon as
eventually	finally	in a few days	in a few hours	in a few minutes
in order to	in the future	last	later	next
next week	once	soon	then	tomorrow

Further Assistance: For more help with transitional words and phrases, visit the Writing Center located in the Lewis University Library on the first floor in the LRC.