

TRANSITIONS

WHAT ARE TRANSITIONS?

Transitions are words or phrases that signal connections between a main idea and supporting ideas

- Transition words help readers recognize the connections between ideas
- Transition words help writers organize information effectively

HOW DO TRANSITIONS WORK?

The organization of an essay includes two elements:

1. The order in which you present the different parts of your discussion or argument
2. The relationships you construct between these parts

Transitions cannot substitute for good organization, but they can make organization clearer and easier to follow

TYPES OF TRANSITIONS?

The types of transitions available are as diverse as the circumstances of their use. A transition can be a single word, a phrase, a sentence, or an entire paragraph.

In each case, it functions the same way:

- First, the transition either directly summarizes the content of a preceding sentence, paragraph, or section or implies such a summary (by reminding the reader of what has come before)
- Then, it helps the reader anticipate or comprehend the new information that you wish to present

WHERE TO USE TRANSITIONS:

- **Transitions between sections:** longer works may require transitional paragraphs that summarize the information already covered and specify the relevance of this information to the information in the coming section.
- **Transitions between paragraphs:** If the paragraphs in an essay are arranged cogently (the content of one leads logically to the next), an effective transition will highlight a relationship that already exists by summarizing the previous paragraph and suggesting something about the content of the paragraph that follows.
 - A transition between paragraphs can be a word or two (however, for example, similarly), a phrase (in a similar fashion, as an example, in other words), or a sentence.

- Transitions can be at the end of the first paragraph, at the beginning of the second paragraph, or in both places.
- **Transitions within paragraphs:** As with transitions between sections and paragraphs, transitions within paragraphs act as cues by helping readers to anticipate what is coming in the next sentence before they read it
 - Within paragraphs, transitions tend to be single words or short phrases.

TRANSITION SAMPLES:

This table provides only a few examples of the transitions available to writers

Transitions of Addition	Transitions of Argument	Transitions of Contrast
Also Another As well Besides In addition Moreover	Above all In fact Obviously Understandably Most importantly Worst of all	Although But Despite However Unlike Yet
Transitions of Spatial Relationships	Transitions of Summary	Transitions of Cause/Effect
Above Below Under Behind	In conclusion In other words Thus Accordingly	As a result Consequently Since Therefore
Transitions of Illustration	Transitions of Time	
Also Finally For example Such as Specifically	After Finally First Immediately Recently	