
Transitional Words and Phrases

There are many ways to create transitions in your writing. Here are some to start using right away.

To show time sequence

first, firstly, second, secondly, third, thirdly, before, to begin, to begin with, at present, earlier, formerly, previously, in the past, until now, after, afterward, following this, then, later, next, in the next moment, soon, afterwards, after a little while, immediately, as soon as, suddenly, now, by now, at this point, while, simultaneously, concurrently, at length, at once, at the same time, at that time, during, briefly, gradually, meanwhile, in the meantime, shortly, sometimes, from time to time, finally, last, subsequently, eventually, ultimately, currently, in the future, at last, finally

To show spatial relationships

above, below, beside, behind, in front of, in the front, in the foreground, in the back, in the background, at the side, adjacent to, nearby, in the distance, beyond, further, next to, on, on the other side, on the far side, to the east (west, north, south), under, among, around, beyond, here, there, outside, inside, opposite to, over, through, to the right, to the left

To add an idea or example

and, in addition, also, further, furthermore, besides, moreover, for the same reason, too, another, for example, as an example, for instance, in fact, in particular, to illustrate, as an illustration, equally important, next, then, specifically, as a case in point, in general, thus, namely, such as, that is, the following, in essence

To compare ideas

similarly, similar to, likewise, in like manner, just like, in comparison, in the same way, just as, also, too, furthermore, moreover, equally, again, so, whereas

To concede a point

granted, certainly, of course, no doubt, surely, naturally, although this may be true, to be sure, admittedly, it is true

To qualify a point

perhaps, probably, possibly, for the most part, provided that

To restate a point

in other words, in simpler terms, in effect, to put it another way, again, that is, that is to say, in brief, in short

To add emphasis

in fact, indeed, certainly, undoubtedly, especially, above all, (even) more important, most importantly, equally important, in other words, that is, moreover, furthermore, surely, in particular, chiefly, primarily, unquestionably

To contrast ideas

but, however, instead of, nonetheless, otherwise, still, unlike, while, yet, despite, in spite of, although, nevertheless, on the one hand, on the other hand, whereas, in contrast to, in contrast with, on the contrary, to the contrary, conversely, still, at the same time, both/and, not only/but also, either/or, notwithstanding, different from, even though, except for

To show a cause and effect relationship

since, because, because of this, thus, therefore, hence, as a result, consequently, as a consequence, accordingly, so, due to this, indeed, for this reason, it follows that

To summarize or conclude

last, lastly, finally, therefore, thus, in brief, on the whole, in short, to sum up, in sum, as a result, hence, in summary, overall, all in all, in other words, altogether, consequently