Transitions

Transitions help the reader follow ideas smoothly. They function both as road signs and bridges between parts of a paper. They "tip off" the reader to where you are going next, both on a paragraph and sentence level.

There are different types of transitions. Some help build a thought, others invoke comparison, and still others direct the reader's attention to a shift in point or conclusion.

Using Transitions in Sentences

Many transitional words are placed at the beginning of a sentence (or independent clause), but some function as conjunctions, while others are best used in the middle of a clause.

- Beginning: "*Meanwhile*, the bear wandered into the cabin."

- Middle: "The success of the experiment, *however*, should not be overlooked."

- Conjunction: "The police identified the criminal, *but* they didn't save the victims."

Below is a paragraph demonstrating how transitions function to organize thoughts:

> "**None of this** will happen without an aroused citizenry. **But** a Global Green Deal is in the common interest, *and* it is a slogan easily grasped by the media and the public. **Moreover***,* it should appeal across political, class and national boundaries, **for** it would simulate **both** jobs **and** business throughout the world in the name of a universal value: leaving our children a livable planet." (Mark Hertsgaard, from *The St. Martin's Guide to Writing, 7th ed.*, 336)

List of Transitions

Here is a list of transitions and their functions. Decide how one sentence or clause relates to the next and pick an appropriate transition based on the function:

- **Add:** and [conjunction], again, and then [conjunction], besides, equally important, finally, further, furthermore, nor [conjunction], too, next, lastly, what's more, moreover, in addition, first (second, etc.)

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  Compare: whereas, but [conjunction], yet [conjunction], on the other hand, however [middle of phrase or after a semicolon], nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, by comparison, where, compared to, up against, balanced against, vis-à-vis, but, although, conversely, meanwhile, after all, in contrast, although this may be true

- **Prove:** because [conjunction], for, since, for the same reason, obviously, evidently, furthermore, moreover, besides, indeed, in fact, in addition, in any case, that is

- **Show exception:** yet [conjunction], still, however, nevertheless, in spite of, despite, of course, once in a while, sometimes

- **Show Time:** immediately, thereafter, soon, after a few hours, finally, then, later, previously, formerly, first (second, etc.), next, and then [conjunction]

- **Repeat:** in brief, as I have said, as I have noted, as has been noted

- **Emphasize:** definitely, extremely, obviously, in fact, indeed, in any case, absolutely, positively, naturally, surprisingly, always, forever, perennially, eternally, never, emphatically, unquestionably, without a doubt, certainly, undeniably, without reservation

- **Show Sequence:** first, second, third, and so forth; A, B, C, and so forth; next, then, following this, at this time, now, at this point, after, afterward, subsequently, finally, consequently, previously, before this, simultaneously, concurrently, thus, therefore, hence, next, and then [conjunction], soon

- **Give example:** for example, for instance, in this case, in another case, on this occasion, in this situation, take the case of, to demonstrate, to illustrate, as an illustration, to illustrate

- **Summarize or Conclude:** in brief, on the whole, summing up, to conclude, in conclusion, as I have shown, as I have said, hence, therefore, accordingly, as a, thus

Also see the **Subordination and Coordination handout**.

For further information, please use the following link via Purdue OWL:

https://owl.purdue.edu/engagement/ged_preparation/part_1_lessons_1_4/transitions.html