

Transitions

WHAT IS A TRANSITION?

In writing, a transition is a word or phrase that connects one idea to another. This connection can occur within a paragraph or between paragraphs. Transitions are used to show how sentences or paragraphs are related to each other and how they relate to the overall theme of the paper.

USING TRANSITIONS WITHIN A PARAGRAPH

Transitions may be used at various times within a paragraph to show the connections between sentences. *Here are some examples:*

Example: The main character displays strength and courage throughout the story. He shows fear and apprehension when he encounters the antagonist.

Revision: The main character displays strength and courage throughout the story. ***However,*** he shows fear and apprehension when he encounters the antagonist.

Rationale: The use of the transition in this case helps to show the contrast between the two ideas while also connecting them.

Example: In the novel, there are many tragic events that take place. The prince's untimely death occurs two days before the wedding.

Revision: In the novel, there are many tragic events that take place. ***For example,*** the prince's untimely death occurs two days before the wedding.

Rationale: The transition helps to connect the idea to the example that follows.

USING TRANSITIONS BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS

Transitions can be useful between paragraphs to connect two ideas. Effective transitions highlight the key information from one paragraph to the next and help to create a logic flow between ideas. These transitions do not always have to use transitional words or phrases; however, they can be useful. P1 represents the last sentence in paragraph one. P2 represents the first sentence of paragraph two. The transitional phrase is bolded and italicized.

Example:

P1: The author's work includes many examples of symbolism.

P 2: In the story, multiple themes are present.

Revision:

P1: The author's work includes many examples of symbolism.

P2: ***In addition to the symbolism in the text,*** multiple themes are present.

Rationale: The transition helps to show how the two paragraphs are related and helps to show the reader the underlying similarities.

Example:**P1:** In the book, many loud sounds prevented the characters from sleeping.**P2:** The characters were unable to embark on their journey the next day.**Revision:****P1:** In the book, many loud sounds prevented the characters from sleeping.**P2: *As a result of their lack of sleep,*** the characters were unable to start their journey the next day.**Rationale:** The transition helps to connect the two paragraphs by showing that the event occurring in the second paragraph was a result of the event that was described in the first paragraph.**Example:****P1:** On Sandy Hook, the light house is located in the north region.**P2:** At the tip of Sandy Hook is the Coast Guard Station.**Revision:****P1:** On Sandy Hook, the light house is located in the north region.**P2: *Further north,*** at the tip of the hook, there is the Coast Guard Station.**Rationale:** In this case, the transition helps to show the relationship between the locations of two structures.**COMMONLY USED TRANSITIONS**

Purpose	Examples
Addition	again, also, and, another, as a result, as well as, besides, both, consequently, equally important, finally, first-second-etc., for example, for instance, further, furthermore, however, in addition to, in fact, in the same way, in the second place, last, likewise, moreover, next, not only-but also, otherwise, similarly, than, therefore, thus, too
Concession	although, at any rate, at least, even though, granted that, in spite of, of course, still, thought, while it may be true
Consequence or Result	accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, due to, for this reason, hence, in other words, since, so, so that, then, therefore, thus, with the result that
Contrast	at the same time, but, contrarily, conversely, however, in contrast, in spite of, nevertheless, nor, notwithstanding, on one hand- on the other hand, on the contrary, or, rather, while this may be true, yet

Details	especially, including, in detail, in particular, namely, specifically, to enumerate, to explain, to list
Emphasis	above all, again, also, besides, certainly, furthermore, in addition, indeed, in fact, in truth, of course, really, surely, truly
Examples	as an illustration, for example, for instance, in other words, in particular, thus, to illustrate
Illustration	for example, for instance, in other words, in particular, namely, specifically, such as, thus, to illustrate
Similarity of Comparison	analogous to, in a like fashion, in a like manner, likewise, similarly
Space	above, across, adjacent, along the edge, around, at the bottom, at the front, at the left, at the rear, at the right, at the top, behind, below, beneath, beside, beyond, in front of, in the background, in the center, in the distance, in the foreground, nearby, nearer, next to, on the side, on top, opposite, out of sight, over, straight ahead, surrounding, under, under, within sight
Suggestion	for this purpose, therefore, to this end, with this in mind, with this purpose in mind
Summary	accordingly, as a result, consequently, finally, in brief, in conclusion, in short, therefore, thus
Time	after, afterward, another, at first, at last, at length, at the same time, before, concurrently, during the morning-day-week-etc., eventually, finally, first-second-etc., for a minute-hour-day-etc., formerly, generally, immediately, in order to, in the meantime, last, later, meanwhile, most important, next, once, ordinarily, previously, rarely, simultaneously, soon, subsequently, then, to begin with, usually