



## Transitional Words and Phrases

---

Transitional expressions can indicate the direction of your thought as you pass from one topic to another. They are particularly valuable to show that you are beginning a new idea or subtopic in your writing. Like signposts, they inform your reader that one part or stage of the discussion has ended, and they also give a hint of what connection the next section of thought has with the just-completed section. In this way, a transition helps your reader follow the flow of your ideas without even momentary confusion as to their relationship. The following examples illustrate how a transition placed at the beginning of a new paragraph not only shows a step forward in the thought, but also relates the new material to that which precedes it.

On the other hand, going out tonight would reduce my stress level, and then I'd probably study better anyway.

*(The transition shows that the new paragraph is to present material in contrast with that in the preceding paragraph or section of the essay.)*

Consequently, I may need to re-take the course.

*(The transition shows that the new paragraph is to explain a result of statements previously made.)*

In addition to retaking the course, I need to pay back my parents for the tuition.

Finally, the best thing about me is that I love to spend time with my friends.

Furthermore, I have great memories of the semester.

Transitional words and phrases may also help you achieve sentence variety, whether you place them at the beginning of a sentence or after the subject of the sentence.

## **Time**

soon	immediately	when
not long after	instantly	whenever
at length	at this instant	next
at last	suddenly	as
finally	now	once
some time ago	without delay	since
later	in the first place	occasionally
afterwards	forthwith	henceforward
presently	straightaway	then
from this time on	quickly	meanwhile
from time to time	at this point	thereupon
after	a few minutes later	in the meantime
before	formerly	sometimes
until	yesterday	in a moment
at present	later in the day	shortly
all of a sudden	since then	whereupon

## **Additions & Conclusions**

and	equally important	in the same way
moreover	much more interesting	then, too
too	of even greater appeal	consequently
next	just as surely	thus
in fact	at the outset	again
likewise	as I have said	for
as a result	more specifically	inasmuch as
further	undoubtedly	so that
also	indeed it is certain	hence
therefore	in truth	for this reason
accordingly	last	under these conditions
in other words	over and above	first/second/third/
furthermore	to conclude	in addition to
besides	finally	another

### **Contrast & Comparison**

but	rather	or
however	on the other hand	nor
yet	although	neither
whereas	though	either
on the contrary	as	quite as evident
on the other hand	as if	equally important
still	as though	much more interesting
notwithstanding	in spite of	of even greater appeal
in contrast to	otherwise	just as surely
nevertheless	similarly	likewise

### **Place**

from  
where  
beyond  
over  
in the middle  
around  
here  
there  
near  
in front of  
in the distance  
farther  
here and there  
above  
below  
at the right  
before  
between  
in the foreground  
on this side  
beside  
wherever  
opposite

### **Reason, Condition, Purpose, Result**

inevitably  
inasmuch as  
in order that  
under these conditions  
as a result  
because  
for this purpose  
in this way  
since  
hence  
if  
thus  
provided that  
so that  
for this reason  
therefore  
granted that  
on that account  
admittedly  
notwithstanding  
in case  
with a view to  
unless  
consequently

### **Emphasis & Repetition**

for  
for example  
in particular  
for instance  
in other words  
in fact  
in the same way  
that is to say  
certainly  
indeed  
undoubtedly  
as I have said  
more specifically  
of course  
to be sure  
on that account  
thus  
therefore  
naturally  
obviously  
emphatically  
most important  
in truth