

TRANSITION WORDS

What are transitions and how are they used?

- transitions are phrases or words used to connect one idea to the next
- transitions are used by the author to help the reader progress from one significant idea to the next
- transitions also show the relationship within a paragraph (or within a sentence) between the main idea and the support the author gives for those ideas
- different transitions do different things....

Transitions may be "Additive," "Adversative," "Causal," or "Sequential."

Additive Transitions

- [Addition](#)
- [Introduction](#)
- [Reference](#)
- [Similarity](#)
- [Identification](#)
- [Clarification](#)

Adversative Transitions

- [Conflict](#)
- [Emphasis](#)
- [Concession](#)
- [Dismissal](#)
- [Replacement](#)

Causal (not *casual*) Transitions

- [Cause/Reason](#)
- [Effect/Result](#)
- [Purpose](#)
- [Consequence](#)

Sequential Transitions

- [Numerical](#)
 - [Continuation](#)
 - [Conclusion](#)
 - [Digression](#)
 - [Resumption](#)
 - [Summation](#)
-

Additive Transitions:

These show addition, introduction, similarity to other ideas, &c.

Addition:

indeed,	further,	as well (as this),	either (neither),	not only (this) but also (that) as well,
also,	moreover,	what is more,	as a matter of fact,	in all honesty,
and,	furthermore,	in addition (to this),	besides (this),	to tell the truth,
or,	in fact,	actually,	to say nothing of,	
too,	let alone,	much less	additionally,	
nor,	alternatively,	on the other hand,	not to mention (this),	

[back to [list](#)]

Introduction:

such as,	as,	particularly,	including,	as an illustration,
for example,	like,	in particular,	for one thing,	to illustrate
for instance,	especially,	notably,	by way of example,	

Reference:

speaking about (this),	considering (this),	regarding (this),	with regards to (this),
as for (this),	concerning (this),	the fact that	on the subject of (this)

[\[back to list\]](#)

Similarity:

similarly,	in the same way,	by the same token,	in a like manner,
equally	likewise,		

[\[back to list\]](#)

Identification:

that is (to say),	namely,	specifically,	thus,
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[\[back to list\]](#)

Clarification:

that is (to say),	I mean,	(to) put (it) another way	in other words,
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[\[back to list\]](#)

Adversative Transitions:

These transitions are used to signal conflict, contradiction concession, dismissal, &c.

Conflict:

but,	by way of contrast,	while,	on the other hand,
however,	(and) yet,	whereas,	though (final position),
in contrast,	when in fact,	conversely,	still

[\[back to list\]](#)

Emphasis:

even more,	above all,	indeed,	more importantly,	besides
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[\[back to list\]](#)

Concession:

but even so,	nevertheless,	even though,	on the other hand,	admittedly,
however,	nonetheless,	despite (this),	notwithstanding (this),	albeit
(and) still,	although,	in spite of (this),	regardless (of this),	
(and) yet,	though,	granted (this),	be that as it may,	

[back to [list](#)]

Dismissal:

either way,	whichever happens,	in either event,	in any case,	at any rate,
in either case,	whatever happens,	all the same,	in any event,	

[back to [list](#)]

Replacement:

(or) at least,	(or) rather,	instead
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[back to [list](#)]

Causal Transitions:

These transitions signal cause/effect and reason/result, etc. . .

Cause/Reason:

for the (simple) reason that,	being that,	for,	in view of (the fact),	inasmuch as,
because (of the fact),	seeing that,	as,	owing to (the fact),	
due to (the fact that),	in that	since,	forasmuch as,	

[back to [list](#)]

Condition:

on (the) condition (that),	granted (that),	if,	provided that,	in case,
in the event that,	as/so long as,	unless	given that,	
granting (that),	providing that,	even if,	only if,	

[back to [list](#)]

Effect/Result:

as a result (of this),	consequently,	hence,	for this reason,	thus,
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because (of this), in consequence, so that, accordingly
as a consequence, so much (so) that, so, therefore,

[back to [list](#)]

Purpose:

for the purpose of, in the hope that, for fear that, so that,
with this intention, to the end that, in order to, lest
with this in mind, in order that, so as to, so,

[back to [list](#)]

Consequence:

under those circumstances, then, in that case, if not,
that being the case, if so, otherwise

[back to [list](#)]

Sequential Transitions:

These transitions are used to signal a chronological or logical sequence.

Numerical:

in the (first, second, etc.) place, initially, to start with, first of all, thirdly, (&c.)
to begin with, at first, for a start, secondly,

[back to [list](#)]

Continuation:

subsequently, previously, eventually, next,
before (this), afterwards, after (this), then

[back to [list](#)]

Conclusion:

to conclude (with) as a final point, eventually, at last,
~~last but not least~~, in the end, finally, lastly,

[back to [list](#)]

Digression:

to change the topic

incidentally,

by the way,

[back to [list](#)]

Resumption:

to get back to the point,
to return to the subject,

to resume

anyhow,

anyway,

at any rate,

[back to [list](#)]

Summation:

as was previously stated,
~~to make a long story short,~~
as has been mentioned,
given these points,
as has been noted,
to put it briefly,

so,
thus,
then,
in all,
hence,
in sum,

consequently,
as I have said,
to summarize,
on the whole,
in conclusion,
altogether,

in summary,
to sum up,
to be brief,
therefore,
in a word,
in short,

all in all,
overall,
briefly,

[back to [list](#)]

[Original version submitted by: [Gregory M. Campbell](mailto:gcampbe@bgsuvax.bgsu.edu) (gcampbe@bgsuvax.bgsu.edu) Thu, 15 Dec 1994 15:44:20 -0500 (EST); similar to [Michael Buckhoff's](mailto:MBuckhoff@aol.com) (MBuckhoff@aol.com) page on Expository Writing <http://buckhoff.topcities.com/using_transition_words.htm>]. Ad(a/o)pted by [John A. Dowell](#), 10.3.97.

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Lastly, here is a brief page with some excellent explanatory information: <<http://www.english-at-home.com/grammar/linking-words/>>

