

Grammar Help Sheet: Transition Words

Writers proceed from one idea to another and must take the reader from point to point in writing both sentences and paragraphs. If the body of the composition is to be unified, each sentence must be connected to the ones before and after it, and each paragraph to the ones before and after it. Common transitional words are: and, but, for, yet.

The central idea should be worded to provide a clue as to how the paper is to be put together. Words and phrases that link one idea of it to the next part should be used.

Transitional phrases develop the connection between one group of sentences and another. To show transition in time or chronology at first, then, soon can be used. For logical argument effective transition can be emphasized with on the one hand, on the other hand, but, however. The writer who wishes to enumerate can connect his ideas with in the first place, also, finally, in conclusion. There are transitional words that indicate spatial order, chronological order, comparison, contrast, continuation, addition. Transitional sentences can be either final or opening sentences.

When an idea is too big for one paragraph unit, you may use a one-sentence transition to pull together the aspect of the subject just discussed and open the idea of the next paragraph. Transitional paragraphs bridge gaps between paragraphs, and show connection between paragraph ideas so the reader will not get lost.

Transitions That Show Time

after	finally	immediately	meanwhile	soon
always	first	last	now	then
eventually	following	later	sometimes	until

Transitions That Show Place and Position

above	beneath	horizontally	opposite	there
ahead	down	inside	outside	under
around	far	near	over	vertically
below	here	next to	parallel	within

Transitions That Show Cause and Effect

as a result	consequently	so	therefore
because	for that reason	so that	

Transitions That Show Comparison and Contrast

but	in the same way	on the other hand	similarly
however	Like	on the contrary	unlike

Transitions That Show Examples

for example	for instance	namely	that is
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