



School of Liberal Arts

University Writing Center

"Because writers need readers"

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## Transitions Classified by Their Uses

A transitional marker indicates the relationship between two ideas or sentences. Effective writing uses a variety of transitions to vary prose and make it more coherent and accurate.

### Addition/ Agreement

Again  
Also  
And, and then  
Besides  
Equally important  
Finally  
First  
Further  
Furthermore  
In addition ( to)  
Indeed  
In fact  
Next  
Second  
Third  
Last  
Likewise  
Moreover  
Too

### Comparison

Likewise  
Similarly

### Concession

After all  
Although  
At the same time  
Doubtless  
Even though  
Admittedly  
Naturally  
No doubt  
Of course  
Whereas

### Examples (Expanding your idea)

For example  
For instance  
Incidentally  
Indeed  
In fact  
In other words  
In particular  
Likewise  
Similarly  
That is  
To illustrate

### Summary

All in all  
Finally  
In brief  
In conclusion  
In other words  
In short  
On the whole  
To conclude  
To summarize  
To sum up

### Connecting a reason to an assertion

Because  
For  
Since

### Cause and Effect

Accordingly  
As a result  
Consequently  
Hence  
In short  
Otherwise  
Therefore  
Thus

### Contrast

After all  
Although  
But  
For all that  
However  
In contrast  
In spite of  
Nevertheless  
Notwithstanding  
On the contrary  
On the other hand  
Still  
Yet

### Qualifying/ Or adding an illustration

Frequently  
Occasionally  
If  
In particular  
In general  
Provided  
Specifically  
Especially  
Unless  
Usually  
When

### Time Relationships

After a short time	Presently
Afterwards	Shortly
As long as	Since
At last	Soon
At the same time	Temporarily
At that time	Then
Before	Thereafter
Immediately	Until
In the meantime	When
Lately	
Later	
Meanwhile	

### **SAMPLE USES FOR TRANSITIONS:**

- Writing is difficult because ideas do not come easily to me. (reason)
- Writing is difficult; therefore, I try to avoid it at every cost. (consequences)
- Writing is difficult; however, with much practice it can become easier. (contrast)
- Writing is difficult. To put it another way, it causes many headaches. (restatement)
- Writing is difficult. For example, I have trouble linking ideas together logically. (example)
- Writing is difficult. Likewise, so is chemistry. (similarity)
- Although writing is difficult, it is rewarding when the finished product earns an A. (concession)
- Writing includes brainstorming, revising, editing, producing many drafts, and proofreading. In sum, writing is difficult. (conclusion or summary)
- Writing is difficult, nevertheless, I still enjoy my W131 course. (denied consequences)
- First you revise several drafts; then you produce the final paper. (sequence)
- You shouldn't give up on writing; instead you should keep trying. (replacement)
- The thesis presents an overview of the essay. Furthermore, it acts as a roadmap for the reader. (addition)

### **SOME PUNCTUATION HINTS:**

- You can form a compound sentence in two ways: (1) with a semicolon, or (2) with a comma and a coordinating conjunction. There are seven coordinating conjunctions: and but so or nor yet for
- The day was sunny and warm; the birds were chirping happily.
- The day was sunny and warm, and the birds were chirping happily.
- The water in the pool was clear and refreshing, yet no one was swimming in it.
  - **Note the various formats for punctuating conjunctive adverbs.**
- The thesis was fascinating. However, the argument needed more support.
- The thesis was fascinating; however, the argument needed more support.
- The thesis was fascinating. The argument needed more support, however.
- The thesis was fascinating. The argument, however, needed more support.