

# Using Transition: The "Turn Signals" of Communicating

**Transition words & phrases** are like turn signals: they tell the reader what you the writer, are going to do next. Are you introducing a new paragraph? Ending a paragraph? Moving from one discussion point to another? Concluding an idea or a paragraph? Then **use transition words/phrases** to let your reader know that. **Transition words/phrases** glue your ideas, paragraphs, and essays together. They do this by establishing logical connections between sentences, paragraphs, and sections of your paper. When you DON'T use transition, your reader gets frustrated or confused trying to figure out which direction you're headed in your paragraph or essay. **Your responsibility as the writer is to guide the reader in the direction your paper is moving.** You can use single words, phrases, or full sentences as transitional devices, but you have to use them!

One other important fact about transition words/phrases: **They're NOT random!** Each word or phrase has its own meaning. They are not "generic" so that they all have the same meaning and can be used at any time or in any place. Use the **BEST TRANSITION WORD/PHRASE FOR THE APPROPRIATE PLACE!**

## Transition Words/Phrases

### Logical Relationship Transitional Expression

**Similarity:** also, in the same way, just...so too, likewise, similarly

**Exception/Contrast:** but, however, in spite of, on the other hand,

On the one hand, nevertheless, nonetheless,

Notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet

**Sequence/Order:** First, second, third, next, then, finally, additionally

**Time:** after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, at the same time, then

**Example:** For example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate

**Emphasis:** Even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly

**Place/Position:** Above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there

**Cause and Effect:** Accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, as a consequence, thus

**Additional support or evidence:** Additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides,

Equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then

**Conclusion/Summary:** Finally, in a word, in brief, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, in summary