

Writing Transitional Words & Phrases

Using **transitional words and phrases** help papers read more smoothly by providing coherence

Transitions indicate relations, whether from sentence to sentence, or from paragraph to paragraph. This is a list of “relationships” which supporting ideas may have, with each followed by a list of transitional words and phrases, which connect those ideas.

Addition:

also, besides, furthermore, in addition, moreover, again

Consequences:

accordingly, as a result, consequently, hence, otherwise, so then, therefore, thus, thereupon

Summarizing:

after all, all in all, all things considered, briefly, by and large, in any case, in any event, in brief, in conclusion, on the whole, in short summary, in the final analysis, in the long run, on balance, on the whole, to sum up, to summarize, finally

Generalizing:

as a rule, as usual, for the most part, generally, generally speaking, ordinarily, usually

Restatement:

in essence, in other words, namely, that is, that is to say, in short, in brief, to put it differently

Comparison and Contrast:

contrast, by the same token, conversely, instead, likewise, on one hand, on the contrary, on the other hand, rather, similarly, yet, but, however, still, nevertheless, in contrast

Sequence:

at first, first of all, to begin with, in the first place, at the same time, for now, for the time being, the next step, in turn, later on, meanwhile, next then, soon, the meantime, later, while, earlier, simultaneously, afterward, in conclusion

Diversion:

by the way, incidentally

Illustration:

for example, for instance, for one thing

Similarity:

likewise, similar, moreover

Direction:

here, there, over there, beyond, nearly, opposite, under, above, to the left, to the right, in the distance