

# Smooth Transitions

Transitional devices are like bridges between parts of your paper. They are cues that help the reader to interpret ideas a paper develops. Transitional devices are words or phrases that help carry a thought from one sentence to another, from one idea to another, or from one paragraph to another. And finally, transitional devices link sentences and paragraphs together smoothly so that there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas.

**ADD**

Transitions can be used to **add** ideas on to one another:

Furthermore | Also | In addition | Further | Besides | And, or, nor | Moreover | In the second place | Even more | Last, lastly | Finally | First, second, secondly, etc.

Transitions are helpful for showing the (passage of) **time**:

While | After | When | Meanwhile | During | Next | Than | So far | Immediately | Later, earlier | Soon | Sometimes | Afterwards | Following | At length | This time

**TIME**

Transitions are great for locating **place**:

Here | There | Nearby | Beyond | Wherever | Opposite to



You can use transitions for **illustrating** points:

To illustrate | To demonstrate | Specifically | For instance | As an illustration | e.g., (for example) | For example



Transitions can help you **compare** and **contrast** concepts:

In the same way | By the same token | Similarly | In the like manner | Likewise | In similar fashion

Yet, And yet | Nevertheless | Nonetheless | After all | But | However | On the contrary | In contrast | Notwithstanding | On the other hand | At the same time | Though | Otherwise

**COMPARE**

**CONTRAST**



You can use transitions to show **cause** and **effect**:

Because | For that reason | On account of | Since

Thus | Hence | As a result | Consequently | Therefore | Accordingly

**CAUSE**

**EFFECT**



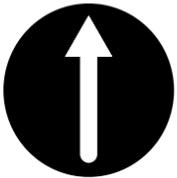
You can **qualify** your points using transition words:

Almost | Nearly | Probably | Perhaps | Maybe | Although



You can also **intensify** your points using transition words:

Indeed | To repeat | By all means | Of course | Undoubtedly | In fact | Surely | In fact



**SUM**

Transitions also help you **wrap up** or **summarize** key points:

To summarize | In sum | To sum up | In short | In summary | In brief

Finally, transitions help you to **conclude**:

In conclusion | To conclude | Finally

**END**

There are a few other **parts of speech** that can act as transitions:

- **Demonstratives** act as transitions: this, these, those, that
- **Pronouns** serve as links if they clearly refer to a specific word or phrase: his, her, it, its, they, their, our, your
- **Repetition** of key words and phrases link sentences and paragraphs.
- **Parallel structure** strengthens the relationship between and among sentences