

Transitions

Transitions not only make your paper sound better, but also help your readers understand your paper by explaining the *relationship* between your ideas, making your paper coherent, and incorporating evidence into your paper. There are three main transitional devices:

1. Keywords/phrases
2. Referencing
3. Transitional terms and phrases

Keywords: Repeat important key words and phrases or use synonyms and pronouns in order to remind the reader of your main ideas and show how the rest of your paper relates to them.

Ex. Tea and the rituals surrounding it are an important part of many world cultures. Evaluating the different types of teas and rituals gives us insight into what the people of that culture value.
Repetition emphasizes the topic of this paper (tea, tea rituals, and culture.)

Ex. When Anne lived in Massachusetts she was always on time. Because punctuality was such an important part of her life, she was disoriented after moving to “laidback” California.
Using synonyms and pronouns shows the connection without being too repetitive.

Referencing: Show connections by referencing previous statements with demonstrative pronouns (this, that, these, those) or with other words and phrases such as verbal adverbs.

Ex. Most students who make an appointment at the writing lab make another appointment in the future. This shows that students find tutoring helpful.
“This” refers back to the previous statement and links it to the following analysis.

Ex. The smoke detector in Alex and Tim’s apartment always goes off. Knowing how sensitive it is, they’ve started opening the windows whenever they cook.
The phrasal adverb clarifies the relationship between the two sentences.

Transitional Terms and Phrases: These words have meanings that explicitly show the relationship between sentences or parts of a sentence. See the list on the back of this handout for more transitional terms and phrases.

Ex. Some people believe that the regulations on water usage go too far; however, when we look at the damage caused by the current drought, the regulations don’t seem to go far enough.
The transitional term “however” emphasizes contrast between two ideas.

Ex. Student fees help to fund resources for students such as peer tutoring and counseling.
The transitional term “such as” shows examples are being given.

Transitional Terms and Phrases

If you want to...	use...
introduce evidence or an example	for example, for instance, indeed, it is true, clearly, namely, to illustrate, such as, specifically, after all
provide additional support or evidence	additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, furthermore, moreover, not only...but also, then, too
emphasize	above all, after all, as a matter of fact, by all means, certainly, definitely, especially, increasingly, in fact, notably, primarily, truly, undoubtedly, without a doubt
generalize	commonly, generally, in general, for the most part, on the whole, usually, typically
concede	admittedly, after all, albeit, although, at the same time, granted, though, while
show similarities	also, alike, as well as, correspondingly, in the same way, like, likewise, resembling, similarly
show contrasts	although, but, even though, however, in contrast, conversely, in spite of, instead, meanwhile, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, otherwise, still, though, unlike, yet
show cause and effect	accordingly, as a consequence, as a result, because, consequently, due to, for this reason, hence, if so, if...then, in effect, owing to, since, so, subsequently, therefore, thus
situate in time	after, afterward, as long as, at last, at length, at the present, at that time, before, concurrently, currently, during, earlier, first (second, third), followed by, formerly, hereafter, in the meantime, in the past, in retrospect, lately, later, meanwhile, now, preceded by, presently, previously, simultaneously, since then, so far, subsequently, suddenly, then, thereafter, until, when, while
conclude, summarize	consequently, finally, hence, in a word, in brief, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, in short, to summarize, to sum up, in summary, as we have seen, therefore, thus, as noted, as a result