

Writing Transitions and Transitional Expressions

Transitions are words or phrases that link sentences to sentences within a paragraph, and paragraphs to other paragraphs, in an essay. Transitions are usually used to connect:

1. The introduction and body paragraphs
2. The body and the conclusion
3. Supporting points (examples, facts, etc.)
4. Identifying main points

Transitions and transitional expressions help the writer and the reader:

To give instructions

First	To begin	In addition	Finally
Second	Next	After	
Third	Also	Last	

To make a point

For example	The most important	For instance	As
One example	An example of	In other words	As well
Another example		Furthermore	

To compare and show how things are alike

Similarity	Likewise	Likewise	Comparable to
Like	A similar	The same as	Similar to
In like manner	Another	Resembles	Comparison
Just as	Also	To compare	Equal to
In the same way	Besides	Alike	

To contrast and show how things are different

Differ	Dissimilar	Notwithstanding	In contrast to
Differences	Different from	For all that	Whereas
Unlike	By comparison	At the same time	Although this may be true
On the other hand	And yet	In front of	
On the contrary	Still	Conversely	
Opposite from	Nevertheless	Before	
Not the same	On the contrary	Near to	
To contrast	After all	However	

To add information

One other	Equally important	Besides	Furthermore
Another	Just as important	Plus	
Also	Next	Most of all	
In addition	Along with	Added to	

To indicate time

Before	Meanwhile	As soon as	In the meantime
After	Later	Until	Sometimes
During	Yesterday	Then	

To indicate a relationship to a place or location

Beyond	Juxtaposed to	In	Between
Opposite to	Near	Into	To the right of
Adjacent to	Outside	Throughout	To the left
On the opposite side	Inside	On top of	Next to
	Beside	Behind	Across from

To explain a problem

A problem is	Could be solved	Could be handled	The answer is
A solution is	by	by	A resolution
A possibility is	Must be resolved	A serious issue	Will be resolved
A concern is		The question is	when

To explain a process

First	After that	When	In this manner
Second	The next step	As	A final step
Third	This procedure	After	
To start	The way to	Meanwhile	
To begin	While	In the meantime	

To explain a cause or an effect

Because of	The motive	Happened after	Made,
As a result	Grounds for	Started when	Began
Since	The basis for	Resulted in	Forced
The reason for	Caused by	Ended with	Consequently

To conclude

To sum up	The final	Indeed	In short
To conclude	Finally	In fact	As has been
In summary,	In brief	In other words	noted
The last	All in all	It is plain that	In any event
A final	To be sure	On the whole	

Transitions Used in Listing Items

Finally	And	Furthermore	In the first of these
In the first place	Also	Besides	Again
For	First, second	And then	Equally important
In addition to	Moreover	Likewise	

To introduce a result

As a result	Consequently	Accordingly
Thus	Then	Thereupon
Therefore	Hence	Wherefore

Substitutes for Like

Enjoy	Elect	Regard	Comprehend
Dig	Prefer	Respect	Understand
Mind	Select	Approve	
Relish	Admire	Endorse	
Choose	Esteem	Appreciate	

Substitutes for Very

Intensely	Richly	Especially	Immeasurably
Bitterly	Truly	Shockingly	Infinitely
Exceedingly	Mightily	Radically	Severely
Surely	Powerfully	Slightly	Chiefly
Especially	Extremely	Incredibly	
Unusually	Surely	Fully	

