

## Transitions

Transitions are words, phrases, clauses, and/or sentences which connect ideas and give clear signals to a reader as to how the ideas are organized. Transitions help the reader understand relationships of time, space, addition, emphasis, example, comparison-contrast, and cause-effect. Remember, a light touch should be your goal when providing linkages. Too many transitions call attention to themselves, making the progression of ideas plodding and mechanical.

Transitions are words that briefly indicate the flow of meaning. They can signal an additional or contrasting point, an enumeration of ideas, the use of an example, or any other movement of ideas. The following list of transitions is organized according to use:

1. To introduce illustrations – for example, for instance
2. To add illustrations – also, and, another, besides, furthermore, in addition, moreover, too
3. To show comparisons and/or contrasts – although, despite, but, however, in the same way, in spite of, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the other hand, similarly, still, yet, at the same time, even so, otherwise
4. To show chronological order – first, second, third, eventually, finally, later, meanwhile, next, now, presently, then, thereafter
5. To show spatial order – about, above, across, around at the top, behind, below, beyond, far, far away, here, near, on the left, on the right
6. To show order of importance – first, second, third, least important, more importantly, most important
7. To show emphasis and clarity – above all, after all, again, as a matter of fact, besides, in fact, in other words, indeed, nonetheless, that is
8. To formulate a conclusion – as a result, finally, in brief, in conclusion, in short, to summarize
9. To indicate purpose or a result – as a result, because, finally, for this reason, in conclusion, therefore, thus, so, accordingly, consequently, hence, since
10. To concede a point – granted that, of course, to be sure, admittedly

Linking sentences summarize a point just made and then introduce a follow-up point. For example:

Writing is a process. Since it is a process, we can expect to follow certain steps toward a final product. This product might be an essay, a story, a novel, or a poem.

Notice how the idea of each sentence builds naturally on the idea of the one preceding it, and introduces the next idea.

Repeated words, synonyms, and pronouns all help create a sense of flow by keeping important concepts in the reader's mind. For example:

The **thesis statement** is the **core** of the essay. This **central idea** demands attention from the writer. Therefore, s/he needs to think carefully about the direction the paper will take, and write, in a sentence or two, a strong **thesis statement**.