

Transitions

Purpose Transitions signal to the reader that there is a change from one idea to another idea in writing and speaking. These transitions are placed at the beginning of sentences, independent clauses, and paragraphs to establish a specific relationship between ideas or groups of ideas. Transitions are necessary to enhance the argument and cohesion in your paper to make its logical development clearer to the readers.

Transitional Words and Phrases

Illustration	Thus; for example; for instance; namely; to illustrate; in other words; in particular; specifically; such as; notably;
Contrast	Conversely; on the contrary; alternatively; contrarily; notwithstanding; but; however; nevertheless; in spite of; in contrast; yet; on one hand; on the other hand; rather; or; nor; conversely; at the same time; while this may be true.
Similarity	Similarly; likewise; equally; by the same token; in the same way;
Addition	And; in addition to; furthermore; moreover; besides; than; too; also; both-and; another; equally important; ; further; last; finally; not only-but also; subsequently; as well as; in the second place; next; likewise; similarly; as a result; consequently; for instance; however; thus; therefore; otherwise.
Time	After; afterward; before; then; once; next; last; at last; at length; at first; formerly; rarely; usually; another; finally; soon; meanwhile; at the same time; most important; later; ordinarily; to begin with; afterwards; generally; in order to; subsequently; previously; in the meantime; immediately; eventually; concurrently; simultaneously.
Reference	Considering x; regarding x; the fact that; with regards to x; on the subject of x; looking at x
Organization	Initially; secondly; thirdly; to start with; in the (first/second/third) place
Analyzing results	Accordingly; as a result; therefore; resulting in/from; consequently; it can be seen; evidence illustrates that; because of this; thus; hence; for this reason; owing to x; it follows that; in that case; it implies; author suggests that
Emphasis	Significantly; primarily; again; also; furthermore; above all; indeed; besides; s
Details	Specifically; especially; in particular; to explain; to list; to enumerate; in detail; namely; including.
Examples	For example; for instance; to illustrate; thus; in other words; as an illustration; in particular.
Summary	Summarizing this x; to repeat; as (was) stated previously; as mentioned earlier.
Consequence or Result	So that; with the result that; thus; consequently; hence; accordingly; for this reason; therefore; so; because; since; due to; as a result; in other words; then.
Conclusion	Thus; hence; ultimately; consequently; finally; altogether; as a result; overall; therefore; in short; in brief; given these points.

Now let's take a look at the purpose and the method of how transitional words and phrases are used to create cohesion and coherence.

Purpose	Examples in Research Writing
Adding Information	<i>"Furthermore; the data shows that X is a significant factor."</i> <i>"In addition to the above-mentioned study; Rogers also presents..."</i>
Introducing or highlighting	<i>"Notably only two species of this fish survive."</i> <i>"One example of this phenomenon is X."</i>
Referencing	<i>"Considering the amount of research in this area, little evidence has been found."</i> <i>"With regards to the Blue Whale; its teeth are also the largest of ..."</i>
Showing similarity	<i>"Likewise; the algorithm was applied to Y."</i> <i>"By the same token; this principle can be applied to Z."</i>
Clarifying or identifying important information	<i>"There are two factors: namely; X and Y."</i> <i>"In other words; the fall of the Empire was caused by over-expansion."</i>
Showing conflict	<i>"However, there is still more research needed."</i> <i>"On the other hand, the 1997 study does not recognize these outcomes."</i>
Emphasizing	<i>"Indeed, a placebo is essential to any pharmaceutical study."</i> <i>"Most importantly, the X enzyme increased."</i>
Conceding a point	<i>"Nevertheless, X is still an important factor."</i> <i>"In spite of this fact, New York still has a high standard of living."</i> <i>"Although this may be true, there are still other factors to consider."</i>
Dismissing an argument or assertion	<i>"Regardless of the result, this fact is true."</i> <i>"In any event, this will not change the public's view."</i>
Replacing or indicating an alternative	<i>"Instead of using X, the scientists used Z."</i> <i>"Or rather, why not implement a brand new policy?"</i>
Showing a cause or reason	<i>"Since the original sample group was too small, researchers called for ..."</i> <i>"Due to budgetary demands, funding will be cut in half."</i>
Explaining the conditions	<i>"Unless these conditions change, more will need to be done."</i> <i>"As long as there is oxygen, there will be oxygenation."</i>
Showing the results	<i>"Therefore, we can conclude that this was an asymmetric catalysis."</i> <i>"As a consequence, many consumers began to demand safer products."</i>
Showing the purpose	<i>"For the purpose of following standards, X rule was observed."</i> <i>"With the current state of pandas in mind, this study focused on ..."</i>
Highlighting the importance of circumstances	<i>"Otherwise, this effect will continue into the future."</i> <i>"All else being equal, the economic impact of this law seems positive."</i>
Showing continuation	<i>"Subsequently, subjects were taken to their rooms."</i> <i>"Afterwards, they were asked about their experiences."</i>
Digression	<i>"Coincidentally, the methods used in the two studies were similar."</i>
Resumption	<i>"Returning to the subject, this section will analyze the results"</i>