

TRANSITIONS

TRANSITIONS are the glue that holds a paragraph together. These devices lead the reader from sentence to sentence, smoothing over the gaps between by indicating the relationships between sentences. If this GLUE is missing, the paragraph will almost inevitably sound choppy or childish, even if every sentence in it responds to a single topic commitment. However, transitions are not substitutes for topic unity; like most glue, they are most effective when joining similar objects or ideas.

There are THREE basic types of transitions. You should become familiar with each and strive to incorporate transitions in your writing.

1: Transitional Words and Phrases**

Transitional words and phrases act as **connecting links** between sentences, ideas and even paragraphs in longer works. **Transitional words** serve as cue cards and let readers know when you are changing directions. They warn readers that you are about to give an example, mention an opposing idea, or add an additional detail. More importantly, they help to **clarify relationships** among ideas. Look at the following examples:

*All through high school John was a fine student. **In addition**, he was a superb athlete.*

In addition at the beginning of the second sentence links the two sentences by connecting the ideas for the reader. **In addition** lets the reader know that an additional detail is coming up. Look at this pair:

*In his junior year, John was the leading scorer for the Panthers. **Therefore**, he was a natural choice for the athlete of the year award.*

Therefore lets the reader know that the second sentence is a result of the first.

Transitional words can be grouped into categories according to their purpose. It is important that you choose the transition words that will help you cue your readers appropriately. **Transitional words** can appear at the beginning, middle, or end of your sentences.

***For a complete list of transitional word/phrase see page two of this document.*

2: Repetition Transition

When using this strategy, the writer repeats a key word or phrase from one sentence at or near the beginning of the next sentence.

***EX:** For the past decade, American farmers have been pressuring the government to sell wheat to Russia. This pressure has resulted in many hard feelings between government agents and the agricultural community.*

The word pressure serves as the transitional bridge between the two sentences. It pulls or directs the reader's mind from one sentence to the next.

3: Echo Transition

With this strategy, the writer **restates/ECHOes** (finds a synonym for) a key word or phrase from one sentence at or near beginning of the next sentence.

***EX:** For the past decade, American farmers have been pressuring the government to sell wheat to Russia. The Communists would gladly buy our surplus to feed their citizens, who are dissatisfied with their own agricultural output.*

Notice that **Communists** and **Russia** serve as the bridge in thoughts.

TRANSITIONAL WORDS/PHRASES

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

at
after
afterwards
at last
at the same time
at length
as soon as
before
by
during
early
earlier
first
finally
gradually
in a few minutes
immediately
later
last
meanwhile
next
now
second
slowly
simultaneously
soon
subsequently
suddenly
then
therefore
today
until
when
while
yesterday

SUPPORTING OPINION

first
second
third
equally
important

in the first place
in addition
also
last
finally
likewise
besides
moreover
next
again
similarly
further
furthermore

COMPARISON/ CONTRAST

similarly
likewise
in the same manner
in like manner
in a similar fashion
in the same way
in contrast
compared to
on the contrary
although
nevertheless
on the other hand
yet
however
despite
contrasted with
still
rather
instead of
but
whereas

SPATIAL ORDER

aboard
about
above across
against
at a distance
adjacent to
along

among
at
behind
below
beneath
beside
bottom
beyond
by
close
down
farther
far
halfway
in front of
leading to
near
next to
opposite
parallel to
through
toward
there
here
under
up
upward
within
without
to the left
on the exterior
at the foot
at the base
at the summit
north
east
from__to__

CAUSE AND EFFECT

accordingly
as expected
as a result of
because
because of
brought about
caused by

consequently
due to
for this reason
gives rise to
if... then
in effect
leads to
made possible
since
so therefore
this results in
thus
was responsible for
when
whenever

COUNTERING

although
but
even though
however
it may be your idea
I argue
I doubt
I favor
I maintain
I question
on the contrary
on the other hand
nevertheless
yet

INTRODUCING IDEAS

as evidence
for example
for instance
in face of
in support of