

## Some Common English Transition Words and Phrases

[http://www.elc.byu.edu/classes/buck/w\\_garden/classes/buck/transitions.html](http://www.elc.byu.edu/classes/buck/w_garden/classes/buck/transitions.html)

<p><b>Adding Information</b></p> <p>and not only . . . but also also moreover (more formal) furthermore (more formal) in addition (more formal)</p>	<p><b>Examples</b></p> <p>We have seen the movie twice, <b>and</b> now we want to see it again.</p> <p><b>Not only</b> did my brother break his leg, <b>but</b> he <b>also</b> bruised his rib.</p> <p>My friend speaks Korean and English. She <b>also</b> speaks Chinese.</p> <p>Cheating is dishonest. <b>Moreover</b>, it hinders students from learning.</p> <p>Students should be on time. <b>Furthermore</b>, they must be prepared.</p> <p>You must complete this essay by 5 p.m. <b>In addition</b>, you must do the exercises on page 47.</p>
<p><b>Giving Examples</b></p> <p>for example for instance specifically in particular The first (second, another, etc.) example/reason is . . .</p>	<p><b>Examples</b></p> <p>I have been to many countries. <b>For example</b>, I have been to Russia, Canada, Mexico, and Spain.</p> <p>He often eats strange foods. <b>For instance</b>, he once ate cow brains.</p> <p>I like to travel. <b>Specifically</b>, I enjoy places with old cathedrals.</p> <p>I love fruit. <b>In particular</b>, I like bananas, pineapple, and berries.</p> <p>My friend hates skiing for several reasons. <b>The first reason</b> is that she dislikes being cold. <b>Another reason is</b> that she often falls.</p>
<p><b>Showing a Contrast</b></p> <p>but however on the other hand otherwise instead in contrast (more formal)</p>	<p><b>Examples</b></p> <p>Bill earned an A on his essay, <b>but</b> Susan got a B.</p> <p>We wanted to leave at 8:00. <b>However</b>, Mike arrived too late.</p> <p>She hates housecleaning. <b>On the other hand</b>, she doesn't mind cooking.</p> <p>Students should attend class. <b>Otherwise</b>, they may lose their status.</p> <p>I am not going out tonight. <b>Instead</b>, I will stay home and watch a video.</p> <p>Women usually enjoy shopping. <b>In contrast</b>, men often dislike it.</p>
<p><b>Showing a Concession</b></p>	<p><b>Examples</b></p>

<p>yet nevertheless (more formal) even so however although even though despite the fact that . . . despite</p>	<p>He knows that he should do his homework, <b>yet</b> he never does it. I need to wear reading glasses. <b>Nevertheless</b>, I hate how I look in them. I know you don't like to study. <b>Even so</b>, you must pass your exam. There are many benefits to exercising. <b>However</b>, you must take some precautions to avoid injury. <b>Even though</b> the book is difficult to read, it is very interesting. <b>Although</b> the book is difficult to read, it is very interesting. <b>Despite the fact that</b> Kate is good at tennis, she lost the match. <b>Despite</b> Kate's skill at tennis, she lost the match.</p>
<p><b>Showing a Similarity</b></p> <p>likewise (more formal) similarly (more formal) in the same way</p>	<p><b>Examples</b></p> <p>Math was hard for me in high school. <b>Likewise</b>, it is hard in college. Houseplants require much care and attention. <b>Similarly</b>, outdoor plants must be cared for properly. Rock climbing takes much practice and skill. <b>In the same way</b>, learning to write well requires a great deal of practice.</p>
<p><b>Showing a Result</b></p> <p>so as a result therefore thus (more formal) as a consequence consequently (more formal)</p>	<p><b>Examples</b></p> <p>Janet passed her exam, <b>so</b> she is very happy. Tim was late. <b>As a result</b>, we could not go to the concert. James is not feeling well. <b>Therefore</b>, he will not be here today. The committee voted against the proposal. <b>Thus</b>, we must consider another idea. I forgot that the cake was in the oven. <b>As a consequence</b>, it burned. Tina lost her keys. <b>Consequently</b>, she could not drive home.</p>
<p><b>Establishing Time Relation or Sequence</b></p> <p>first second finally in conclusion in summary meanwhile</p>	<p><b>Examples</b></p> <p><b>First</b>, I think that she is studying hard. <b>Second</b>, I believe that she is a bright student. <b>Finally</b>, I know that she has great potential. <b>In conclusion</b>, I feel that she deserves to win the scholarship. <b>In summary</b>, we should offer her some financial help. Jeff was working hard to clean the house. <b>Meanwhile</b>, his brother was watching television.</p>

<b>Showing a Condition</b>  or whether . . . or if . . . (then)	<b>Examples</b>  I must study hard, <b>or</b> I will fail my exam. <b>Whether</b> you are coming <b>or</b> not, I am still going to Amy's party. <b>If</b> you want to get good grades, <b>then</b> you must do your homework.
<b>Explaining or Emphasizing</b>  in fact actually in other words namely (more formal)	<b>Examples</b>  The bookstore sells cards. <b>In fact,</b> they have the best cards around. James is <b>actually</b> the first person I have known who has been to Africa. He was late to class again. <b>In other words,</b> he didn't wake up on time. The plan needed only two things to succeed— <b>namely,</b> time and money.
<b>Giving an Alternative</b>  or either . . . or neither . . . nor (more formal)	<b>Examples</b>  We can go to the beach, <b>or</b> we can go to the mountains. You can <b>either</b> ride the bus <b>or</b> walk to my apartment. I like <b>neither</b> that person <b>nor</b> his brother.