

Transition Words and Phrases

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With every academic writing assignment, clarity and focus are crucial when delivering your ideas. Transition words and phrases will add connectivity and flow to your writing. They can be used within a single sentence, between two different sentences, or even between paragraphs. There are many types of transitional phrases to show a variety of relationships. Though there are many, this handout highlights five of the more common areas where transition words and phrases can be effective.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Example Terms: **to begin, next, then, also, during, meanwhile, at last, after, afterward, first, second, third, and so forth, consequently, previously**

"Susan spoke, thinking of the right answer."
"Susan spoke **only after** thinking of the right answer."

CHANGING IDEAS/COMPARISON

Example Terms: **although, but, yet, still, rather, however, nevertheless, on the other hand, conversely, meanwhile, in contrast, similarly**

"The boy liked birds. He was afraid of cats. He did not like lions and tigers."
"The boy liked birds, **but** he was afraid of cats.
Similarly, he did not like lions and tigers."

CONTINUED IDEAS

Example Terms: **also, additionally, alternatively, furthermore, last, finally, moreover**

"Kyle loves pizza. He likes video games."
"Kyle loves pizza. He **also** loves video games."

TIME

Example Terms: **lately, later, before, during, simultaneously, immediately, earlier, once, at the same time**

"Make sure you jot down your assignments so you can review your work."
"**Before** you go home, make sure you jot down your assignments so you can review your work **later** this evening."

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

Example Terms: **lastly, finally, as a result, consequently, thus, furthermore, therefore, last of all, given these points**

"All the facts have been presented and the results are clear."
"All the facts have been presented and, **as can be seen**, the results are clear."

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Reference:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/mechanics/transitions_and_transitional_devices/transitional_devices.html



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