

TRANSITIONS

Coherence in a paragraph requires transitions which can be words or phrases. Transitions show the relationship between sentences or ideas within sentences. They are placed at or near the beginning of a sentence to indicate their relation to the preceding sentence. The coordinating conjunctions for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so are often used this way. The following is a list of additional common transitional words and phrases.

TRANSITIONS INDICATING:	USES:
<p><u>Time or Sequence:</u> first, second, third, then, next, after that, also, last, at the same time, meanwhile, providing, subsequently, previously, after a short time, afterward(s), as long as, as soon as, at last, at length, at that time, before, earlier, of late, in the meantime, lately, later, presently, shortly, soon, thereafter, until, frequently, occasionally.</p>	<p>You are indicating a time relationship</p>
<p><u>Addition:</u> again, also, then, besides, equally important, in fact, similarly, first, second, third, furthermore, in addition (to), additionally, last, likewise, moreover, next, too, indeed.</p>	<p>You are adding something. "And" can be a good sentence opener when used with care.</p>
<p><u>Cause & Effect:</u> accordingly, as a result, consequently, hence, otherwise, then, therefore, thus, since, because, in other words, so.</p>	<p>You are showing the relationship between two ideas or conditions</p>
<p><u>Comparison:</u> also, like, too, as well as, in a like manner, both _ and _, neither _nor_, likewise, similarly.</p>	<p>You are showing similarities.</p>
<p><u>Contrast:</u> although, though, and, yet, at the same time, but, for all that, however, in contrast (to), in spite of, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, on the contrary, on the other hand, still, yet, even though, in opposition to, conversely, whereas, nor, or, but, yet.</p>	<p>You are reversing or deflecting the line of thought, usually back to your own side.</p>
<p><u>Supporting a Point:</u> because, since, for</p>	<p>You are connecting a reason to an assertion.</p>
<p><u>Conceding a Point:</u> of course, no doubt, doubtless, to be sure, granted (that), certainly.</p>	<p>You are conceding a point to the opposition or recognizing a point just off your main line.</p>
<p><u>Special Features or Examples:</u> for example, for instance, incidentally, indeed, in fact, in other words, in particular, specifically, that is, to illustrate, frequently, occasionally, especially, in general, usually, as an illustration.</p>	<p>Again you are adding, illustrating, or expanding your point.</p>
<p><u>Summary:</u> so, and so, finally, last, hence, thus, on the whole, all in all, therefore, in summary, in brief, in conclusion, in short, on the whole, to conclude, to sum up, to summarize, in other words, consequently.</p>	<p>You are adding up consequences, summarizing minor points to emphasize a major point.</p>

PUNCTUATING TRANSITIONAL MARKERS:

When a transitional marker is used at the beginning of a sentence or in the middle of an independent clause, a comma is used to set it off.

EX: *In other words, his troubled past gave relevance to his writing. He found, in short, a productive use for the bad times.*

When a transitional marker is used between independent clauses in a compound sentence, a semicolon is placed before the transitional marker, and a comma is usually placed after it.

EX: *Americans are often proud of their history; nevertheless, there are some unpleasant episodes.*

Repeating key words or phrases

He walked until his feet hurt. He walked until his arms felt like two bars of lead. He walked until, finally, he could no longer put one foot in front of the other.

This particular construction is known as parataxis, or "alignment," within linguistics, and is a common way of collapsing the difference between ideas and thereby presenting disparate notions as part of a unified whole.

Her dress was a bright, vibrant red. Amid the summer pastels worn by the other girls, it stood out like a lush red rose in a bed of pale pink flowers, and throughout that long afternoon, his weary eyes kept turning toward that red dress like a moth toward a glowing flame.

This construction would be classified as deixis, or "placement," since both "red" and "dress" reference "red dress" occurring previously in the text. Deixis helps to centralize and unify things or concepts across several sentences.

Since word repetition tends to add emphasis, be careful that you do not overdo this technique.

Using Parallel Structures

When you drive an old car, you may not be surprised if you have a bumpy ride.

When you drive a new one, you expect everything to go more smoothly.