



Transitions

To signal relationships or shifts in meaning, a transition connects one paragraph, sentence, clause, or word with another. A transition also identifies what kind of connection exists, helping readers anticipate how the next paragraph or sentence will relate to the meaning of what they have just read.

Following are the groups of transitions, what they signal, and examples of each.

Chronological Transitions – Relationship in time

For example: presently, the next day, beforehand, following this, thereafter, after that, next, then, first, meanwhile, when I returned, thereupon, at that moment, at length, at last, soon, earlier, second, afterward, within an hour, immediately, from then on, soon after, by then, later, shortly, third.

Spatial Transitions – Relationship in space

For example: a little farther on, at the edge of the clearing, beyond this point, in the next room, at the center of the circle, just to the right, at that altitude, across the way, about a foot to the left.

Comparison Transitions – What follows is similar to what precedes

likewise, once again, similarly, once more, at the same time, in the same way, in like manner.

Contrast Transitions – A contradiction or contrast

Notwithstanding, unlike, conversely, nevertheless, for all that, whereas, on the contrary, still, on the other hand, even so, however, nonetheless, in contrast, surely, in spite of this.

Middle Paragraph Transitions – What follows is an illustration, a qualification, or an example

for example, similarly, for instance, likewise, occasionally, in general, to illustrate, that is, specifically, generally, frequently, usually, especially, whenever, in particular.

What follows is additional or supplementary

furthermore, first, second, third, besides, moreover, again, also, in addition, as if that were not enough, indeed, in fact, then, too.

What follows is quite expected, quite natural, or obviously true

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to be sure, it follows, then, that without a doubt, for that matter, naturally, as a matter of fact, surely, of course.

Cause-Effect Transitions – What follows is a result of what precedes

as a result, as a consequence, in other words, at last, all in all, on the whole, then, second, and that is why, consequently, another, wherefore, hence, first, so, for this reason, accordingly, and so, therefore, finally, thus.

Counterargument Transitions – For concession

Granted, that, of course, it may be true that, to doubt that, to be sure, certainly, doubtless

End of Paragraph or Conclusion Transitions - What follows is a repetition or intensification of that which precedes

in other words, as we have seen, besides, in fact, to put it another way, in any case, indeed, to repeat, as noted, earlier, therefore, in a word, on the whole, in conclusion, to conclude, finally, what we have, then, in short, all in all, to summarize, in summary, in brief, in sum.

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