

Transition Words

Transition words ensure coherence from one idea to another and overall flow in a paper. They allow the writer to go from one idea to the next, and they allow the reader to see how these ideas are connected.

CRITICAL THINKING

Do not use transition words that incorrectly change the meaning of a sentence or paragraph—choose them wisely.

- What is the relationship that you wish to convey between two sentences or paragraphs?
 - Is the relationship too complex to explain with only one word?
 - Should you use a transition phrase instead?
- Example of a paragraph without transition words: Tech support employees follow a script to deal with common problems. They suggest that you restart your device. If the problem is still there, they will try something else. Restarting your device solves the problem, it can be frustrating when you know that there is another issue; when you have tried restarting your device, and it did not work. Remember that tech support is as frustrating for the employees on the line as it is for you.
- Example of a paragraph with transition words: When it comes to information technology, tech support employees often follow a script to deal with common problems. First, they usually suggest that you restart your device. After that, if the problem is still there, they will try something else. Even if restarting your device frequently solves the problem, it can be frustrating when you know that there is another issue; for example, when you have already tried restarting your device, and it did not work. In spite of that, remember that tech support is ultimately as frustrating for the employees on the line as it is for you.

Addition

To specify or reinforce an idea, use transition words like *additionally*, *again*, *also*, *as well*, *equally important*, *further*, *furthermore*, *in addition*, *indeed*, *in fact*, *in the same way*, *likewise*, *moreover*, and *similarly*.

Cause or Consequence

To draw a causal relationship between two elements, use transition words like *accordingly*, *as a result*, *because*, *before*, *consequently*, *for this reason*, *hence*, *next*, *since*, *subsequently*, *then*, *therefore*, and *thus*.

Conclusion

To show that the discussion is complete, use transition words like *finally*, *in any case*, *in conclusion*, *in summary*, *in the end*, *regardless*, *therefore*, *thus*, *to conclude*, *to sum up*, *ultimately*, and *without a doubt*.

Condition

To establish a condition, set limits, or consider a possible opposition, use transition words like *admittedly*, *considering*, *for the most part*, *fortunately*, *generally*, *granted*, *occasionally*, *of course*, *often*, *ordinarily*, *rarely*, *sometimes*, *unfortunately*, and *usually*.

Contrast

To oppose two or more ideas, use transition words like *although*, *conversely*, *despite*, *however*, *instead*, *nevertheless*, *on the contrary*, *on the one hand ... on the other hand*, *rather*, *regardless*, *still*, *though*, *whereas*, and *yet*.

Emphasis

To place more importance on an idea in an effort to get the reader's attention, use transition words like *above all*, *certainly*, *essentially*, *in fact*, *in particular*, *most importantly*, *most of all*, *most significantly*, *notably*, *particularly*, *primarily*, and *specifically*.

Example

To introduce an example, use transition words like *an example would be*, *for example*, *for instance*, *in one such case*, *in this case*, *take a look at*, *to demonstrate*, *to illustrate*, and *such as*.

Introduction

To present a new idea, use transition words like *as for*, *concerning*, *firstly*, *initially*, *in the case of*, *in the first place*, *primarily*, *regarding*, *similarly*, *to begin*, *when it comes to*, and *with regard to*.

Sequence or Progression

To establish the order in which ideas follow one another, use transition words like *according to this*, *as it was previously stated*, *because of this*, *first ... second ... third*, *for this reason*, and *not only... but also*.