

## Transition Signals

Transition signals are **connecting words and phrases** that link sentences and paragraphs together so that there are **no abrupt jumps or breaks** between your ideas. They also act like **signposts** that indicate to your reader when you are building up to some new idea or thought, or when you are trying to compare ideas or draw conclusions from preceding thoughts.

The following transition signals are grouped according to the **relationship between ideas** that they indicate. Choose words or phrases from each group depending on the type of relationship you wish to describe.

### To Introduce an Example:

*especially*  
*for example*  
*for instance*  
*frequently*

*in this case*  
*one example of this is*  
*on this occasion*  
*specifically*

*take the case of*  
*to demonstrate*  
*to illustrate*

### To Show Agreement:

*of course*  
*certainly*

*admittedly*  
*no doubt*

*it is true that*

### To Introduce an Additional Idea:

*additionally*  
*again*  
*equally important*  
*and then*  
*not to mention*

*as well as*  
*moreover*  
*one could also say*  
*further*  
*another*

*in addition*  
*also*  
*and*  
*furthermore*

**Note:** The transition **besides** can also be used to introduce an additional idea, but **besides** differs from the other transitions in this group because it **excludes**, rather than includes, the previous idea from the new subject. Ex. “**Besides my professor, I cannot think of anyone who has seen my writing.**”

### To Indicate Sequence or Order:

*after*  
*previously*  
*first*  
*at this point*  
*followed by*  
*before*  
*concurrently*

*afterwards*  
*finally*  
*second*  
*simultaneously*  
*at this time*  
*meanwhile*  
*next*

*eventually*  
*and then*  
*third*  
*subsequently*  
*last*  
*ultimately*

**To Indicate Time:**

*after*  
*previously*  
*at this point*  
*at this time*  
*before*  
*during*

*afterwards*  
*finally*  
*formerly*  
*immediately*  
*initially*  
*later*

*earlier*  
*prior to*  
*soon*  
*then*  
*thereafter*  
*to this day*

**To Compare:**

*just like*  
*likewise*  
*like*

*another way to view this*  
*balanced against*  
*by comparison*

*similarly*  
*whereas*  
*while*

**To Contrast:**

*even so*  
*and*  
*in contrast*  
*but*  
*yet*

*a different view is*  
*notwithstanding*  
*balanced against*  
*on the contrary*  
*on the other hand*  
*differing from*

*nevertheless*  
*however*  
*still*  
*unlike*  
*conversely*

**To Introduce an Opposite Idea or Show Exception:**

*alternatively*  
*but*  
*still*  
*instead*  
*yet*

*on the other hand*  
*nevertheless*  
*one could also say*  
*even though*  
*however*

*in contrast*  
*in spite of*  
*despite*  
*whereas*  
*while*

**To Show Cause and Effect:**

*and so*  
*thus*  
*hence*

*consequently*  
*as a consequence*  
*for this reason*

*therefore*  
*as a result*

**To Summarize or Conclude:**

*finally*  
*thus*  
*hence*  
*in brief*

*in conclusion*  
*in other words*  
*on the whole*  
*in summary*  
*summing up*

*therefore*  
*to conclude*  
*as shown*  
*ultimately*