

Transitional Words & Phrases

Transitional words and phrases improve the flow of writing by facilitating shifts from one point or topic to the next without being abrupt or causing confusion. Transitions also help to organize thoughts by improving the logical connections between ideas. In summary, transitional words and phrases indicate the relationships between sentences, paragraphs, and even a paper as a whole.

Addition: to add another idea or facet to a previously stated argument or thought

Also	Too	Besides	Even	In conjunction with	Not only... but
Another		Both	Furthermore	Likewise	Together with
As well (as)		Coupled with	In addition (to)	Additionally	Moreover

Alternative: to alert the reader to other possibilities that have yet to be stated

Alternatively	Either...or	One or the other (of)	Otherwise	Whether...or	
Another...	If not	On the other hand	Sometimes	Whichever	
Contrastingly	Instead (of)	Or else	Yet	Then again	Conversely

Analysis: to explain why an idea is being considered or an argument made

Analyze	Compare	Debate	Distinguish	Inspect
Appraise	Contrast	Diagram	Examine	Inventory
Calculate	Criticise	Differentiate	Experiment	Test

Application: how an idea can be applied to the argument

Apply	Employ	Operate	Show
Demonstrate	Illustrate	Practice	Sketch
Dramatize	Interpret	Schedule	Use

Cause and Effect: to explain/define the results or origins of an action, experiment, or idea

...accounts for	...causes	...forms	...makes	...produces
...because (of)	...creates	...gives rise to	On account of	...results in
...brings about	Due to	...leads to	Owing to	Since

Comprehension: to express one's understanding of a topic, experiment, or argument

Describe	Express	Recognize	Review
Discuss	Identify	Restate	Tell
Explain	Locate	Report	Translate

Component parts: to explain/ define what an idea, experiment, or action is made of

Consists of	Constitutes	Is composed of	Is comprised of	Is made up of
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Condition: explains the terms that an idea/experiment needs to meet, has met, or could meet

But for	In case	Provided that	Suppose	Unless
If (not)	On the condition that	So long as	Then	Without

Consequence: to relate how an idea or concept will effect something or what may happen as a result of its inclusion

Accordingly	For this purpose	Hence	Subsequently	Thereupon	Otherwise
As a result of	For this reason	So then	Therefore	Thus	Wherefore

Contrast and Comparison: to show the differences or comparisons between ideas

Although	Despite	However	More than	Though
All the same	Difference	In contrast	Nevertheless	Unlike
As much as	Dissimilar	In spite of	Notwithstanding	Whereas
Both	Even so	In the same way resemble	On the other hand	While
By contrast	Even though	Just as...so	Still	Whilst
Compared to/ with	For all	Like	The same... as	Yet
Conversely				

Direction: to direct attention to a physical space

Above	Beyond	In the distance	Opposite	To the left /right
Below	Here	Nearly	Over there	Under

Diversion: to divert attention from the main point to a specific detail

By the way	Consider	Incidentally	In passing	With reference to	Parenthetically
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Emphasis: to pay specific attention to a certain idea or detail

Above all	For instance	In particular	Notably	Such as
Especially	Including	Markedly	Specifically	With attention to
In regard to				

Exception or Restriction: to inform the reader of a limit or restriction

(all) but (one)	Barring	Exclusive of	Not including	Outside of
Apart from	Except(ing)	Just	Only	Save (from)
Aside from	Excluding	Merely	Other than	Simply

Evaluation: to explain how a thing, idea, or process could be/ should be/ or was analyzed

Assess	Compare	Judge	Revise
Appraise	Estimate	Measure	Select
Choose	Evaluate	Rate	Score

Generalizing: to sum up the qualities of a thing/idea/ or group

As a rule	Commonly	Generally	It can be assumed	Ordinarily
As usual	For the most part	Generally speaking	Normally	Usually

Illustration: to give an example of a previously mentioned idea

As an example	Can be shown	For example	For one thing	Like
As illustrated with (by)	Case in point	For instance	In this case	Such as,

Knowledge: to explain the material being studied

Define	Name	Record	Repeat	List	Recall	Relate	Underline
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Means or Instruments: to explain how implementations or processes were or were not used

By...	By means of...	Through	Using	With...	Without...
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Reasons: why or how a concept/idea was implemented, discovered, or came to be accepted/rejected

Accordingly	So that	Hence	On account of	So (that)
As	By way of	In that case	Resulting in	Therefore
As a result	Consequently	Making	Seeing that	Thereby
because	For	Now that	Since	Thus

Restatement: to reiterate or remind the reader of what has been previously stated

In essence	In other words	In short	That is (to say)	To put it differently
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Requirement: to explain the required factors of a concept, experiment, or theory

Depends on (upon)	Essentially	Must	Necessary	Needs	Requires
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Sequence: to explain or define the order in which something is happening, has happened, or took place

Afterward	For the time being	Initially	Simultaneously	The next step
At the same time	Finally	Lastly	Subsequently	To begin with
First of all / Firstly	In conclusion	Meanwhile	Then	With this in mind

Summarize or Conclude: to conclude and surmise a paragraph, essay, or topic

After all	Hence	In summary	In the final analysis	Then
All things considered	In conclusion	It can be argued	So (thus)	Therefore
Consequently	In short	It can be viewed	That means	To conclude

Synthesis: to explain what a thing, idea, or theory is comprised of

Accumulate	Collect	Create	Manage	Prepare
Assemble/ Arrange	Compose/Construct	Formulate	Organize	Purpose