

## Transitions

Transitional words or phrases show readers *how* the writer wants them to read, interpret, react to, and evaluate what was written about the subject. Writers can use these devices like bridges to carry the reader gracefully from one idea development to the next: sentence to sentence, paragraph to paragraph, and one part of a document to the next. Because they direct the reader's attention in specific ways, there are several categories of transitions for writers to choose from.

Here are some categories of common transitional devices that writers can use:

| <b>To Add:</b> |                      |             |              |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| and            | besides              | further     | next         |
| again          | equally important    | furthermore | lastly       |
| and then       | finally              | nor         | what is more |
| in addition    | first (second, etc.) | too         | moreover     |

| <b>To Repeat or To Explain:</b> |                |                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| in brief                        | as I have said | as I have noted | as has been noted |
| in other words                  |                |                 |                   |

| <b>To Emphasize:</b> |                     |              |             |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| emphatically         | without a doubt     | in fact      | never       |
| extremely            | without reservation | in deed      | always      |
| definitely           | without question    | in any case  | forever     |
| absolutely           | unquestionably      | naturally    | perennially |
| positively           | undeniably          | surprisingly | eternally   |
| certainly            | moreover            |              |             |

| <b>To Make a Case:</b> |                     |                |             |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|
| because                | for                 | that is        | indeed      |
| moreover               | for the same reason | in other words | in fact     |
| furthermore            | besides             | in any case    | in addition |

| <b>To Show Cause and Effect:</b> |                 |              |             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| therefore                        | thus            | consequently | so, so that |
| accordingly                      | for this reason | as a result  | to this end |
| hence                            | because         | then         |             |

| <b>To Show Exception:</b> |                 |             |              |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| yet, still                | once in a while | in spite of | of course    |
| however                   | sometimes       | despite     | nevertheless |

**To Concede:**

|                          |                           |                        |                    |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| although it is true that | granted that<br>of course | I admit that naturally | it may appear that |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|

**To Give an Example:**

|              |                  |                          |                   |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| for example  | in this case     | to illustrate            | on this occasion  |
| for instance | in another case  | as an illustration       | in this situation |
| even         | take the case of | in the following example | indeed            |
| of course    | specifically     | such as                  | in fact           |

**To Compare:**

|       |                   |                              |          |
|-------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| again | also<br>once more | in the same way<br>similarly | likewise |
|-------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------|

**To Contrast:**

|                   |              |                           |             |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| on the one hand   | but          | although this may be true | meanwhile   |
| on the other hand | yet          | although                  | after all   |
| on the contrary   | still        | though                    | despite     |
| in contrast       | however      | where                     | in spite of |
| compared to       | nevertheless | whereas                   | regardless  |
| instead           | nonetheless  | conversely                |             |

**To Show Time:**

|                      |                   |                |                 |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| first (second, etc.) | immediately, now  | thereafter     | previously      |
| next                 | soon, as soon as  | later          | formerly        |
| at last              | after a few hours | earlier        | before          |
| lately               | afterward         | then           | as long as      |
| since                | presently         | simultaneously | in the meantime |
| when                 | until             | so far         | meanwhile       |

**To Show Sequence:**

|                      |                |                       |                |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| first (second, etc.) | next           | after                 | simultaneously |
| A, B, C, etc.        | too            | afterward             | concurrently   |
| at this time         | following this | then, and then        | thus           |
| at this point        | previously     | finally               | still          |
| now                  | before this    | consequently moreover | therefore      |
|                      | subsequently   |                       | hence          |

**To Summarize or Conclude:**

|                      |             |             |                |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| as I have shown      | in brief    | accordingly | as a result    |
| as I have said       | in summary  | hence       | consequently   |
| as mentioned earlier | summing up  | thus        | on the whole   |
|                      | to conclude | therefore   | in any event   |
|                      | in short    |             | in other words |