

► Transitions

Connecting sentence ideas and paragraphs

Transitional Connections (from *WHH* p. 73 and University of North Carolina Writing Center)

Transitional words help connect two sentences. They indicate that an idea is shifting in a new direction.

Addition	and, and then, further, furthermore, also, too, again, in addition, besides, additionally, as well, besides, equally important, moreover
Alternative	or, nor, either, neither, on the other hand, conversely, otherwise
Cause/Effect	so, for, therefore, accordingly, consequently, thus, thereby, as a result, then, because, hence
Comparison	similarly, likewise, in like manner also, in the same way, just as ... so too
Concession	although this may be true, even so, still, nevertheless, at the same time, notwithstanding, nonetheless, in any event, that said
Contrast	but, yet, or, and yet, however, on the contrary, in contrast, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, still
Emphasis	in fact, indeed, moreover, even more important, to be sure, even, indeed, of course, truly
Example	for example, for instance, in the case of, namely, specifically, to illustrate
Place	here, beyond, nearby, opposite to, adjacent to, on the opposite side, above, adjacent, below, in front, in back, there
Purpose	to this end, for this purpose, with this objective, in order to, so that
Repetition	as I have said, in other words, that is, as has been noted, as previously stated
Sequence	next, first, second, third, in the first place, in the second place, finally, last, then, afterward, later
Summary	to sum up, in brief, on the whole, in sum, in short, finally, in a word, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in summary
Time	meanwhile, soon, after a few days, in the meantime, now, in the past, while, during, since, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, recently, simultaneously, subsequently

► Transitions (examples)

Transitioning between paragraphs (from *OWL*, Purdue's Online Writing Lab)
written by Ryan Weber, Karl Stolley (with some editing)

Instead of treating paragraphs as separate ideas, transitions can help readers understand how paragraphs work together, reference one another, and build to a larger point.

It is a good idea to continue one paragraph where another leaves off. Picking up key phrases from the previous paragraph and highlighting them in the next can create an obvious progression for readers. Many times, it only takes a few words to draw these connections. Instead of writing transitions that could connect any paragraph to any other paragraph, write a transition that could only connect one specific paragraph to another specific paragraph.

Example 1:

[last line of ¶1]: Overall, Management Systems International has logged increased sales in every sector, leading to a significant rise in third-quarter profits.

[first line of ¶2]: Another important thing to note is that the corporation had expanded its international influence.

Revision 1:

Overall, Management Systems International has logged increased sales in every sector, leading to a significant rise in third-quarter profits.

These impressive profits are largely due to the corporation's expanded international influence.

Example 3:

[last line of ¶1]: Amy Tan became a famous author after her novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, skyrocketed up the bestseller list.

[first line of ¶2]: There are other things to note about Tan as well. Amy Tan also participates in the satirical garage band the Rock Bottom Reminders with Stephen King and Dave Barry.

Revision 3:

Amy Tan became a famous author after her novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, skyrocketed up the bestseller list.

Though her fiction is well known, her work with the satirical garage band the Rock Bottom Reminders receives far less publicity.

Example 2:

[last line of ¶1]: Fearing for the loss of Danish lands, Christian IV signed the Treaty of Lubeck, effectively ending the Danish phase of the 30 Years War.

[first line of ¶2]: But then something else significant happened. The Swedish intervention began.

Revision 2:

Fearing for the loss of more Danish lands, Christian IV signed the Treaty of Lubeck, effectively ending the Danish phase of the 30 Years War.

Shortly after Danish forces withdrew, the Swedish intervention began.