

WRITING - TRANSITIONS

Within a text, transitions can be used in a sentence, between sentences, or between paragraphs and ideas. *For example*, transitions can denote clarity in a sentence, and coherence in between sentences or paragraphs. *Likewise*, transitions can help distinguish main ideas from each other. *Keep in mind* that transitions can be made up of a single word, phrase, sentence or paragraph. As a writer, use transitions to distinguish ideas for the reader as well as for your self.

Transitions come in many forms and are distinguished within many different categories. Examine the two examples below *in order to* establish appropriate transition usage.

1) Conjunctive adverbs: function both as an adverb modifying a clause and as a conjunction. When acting as a conjunction, they are preceded by a semicolon (;) and followed by a comma (,) e.g. ...; *however*,...

accordingly, also, anyway, besides, certainly, consequently, finally, furthermore, hence, however, incidentally, indeed, instead, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, nevertheless, next, nonetheless, otherwise, similarly still, subsequently, then, therefore, thus.

Example: The term is over *finally* (adverb), and I can relax; *besides* (conjunction), I want to catch-up on reruns of MASH.

2) These categories give examples of different uses for transitions under specific sections within a document.

❖ addition, and sequence:

and, again, agreeably, also, besides, consecutively, even more important, finally, first, further, furthermore, in addition, in the first place, in order to, last, likewise, moreover, next, possibly, second, then, third, too.

❖ cause and effect:

accordingly, as a result, at that time, because, before long, consecutively, consequently, for, for this reason, hence, henceforth, hereafter, in due course, in the future, in which case, next, on that account, on that occasion, onward, so, soon afterward, then, therefore, thus.

- ❖ comparison:
also, as well, even more, farther, in accordance with, in addition, including, in agreement with, in the same way, likewise, more so, not to mention, plus, similarly, too.
- ❖ contrast:
although, at the same time, but, conversely, even so, however, in contrast, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, on the contrary, on the other hand, otherwise, still, yet.
- ❖ example:
as a consequence, certainly, consequently, for example, for instance, inevitably, in fact, indeed, in the event, it follows that, of course, specifically, that is, to account for, to demonstrate, to explain, to expound, to illustrate, positively, truly, typically.
- ❖ purpose:
for this purpose, for this reason, on account of, in behalf of, in favor of, instead of, instead of, in preparation for, to resolve this, to this end, with this object.
- ❖ place:
above, adjacent to, below, beyond, close, farther on, here, instead of, in position, nearby, on the other side, opposite, opposite to, there, to the left, to the south.
- ❖ summary or conclusion:
as I have said, at length, collectively, consequently, in any event, in brief, inevitably, in conclusion, in other words, in short, incidentally, in summary, to sum up, on the whole, that is, therefore.
- ❖ time:
after, afterward, as, at length, before, collectively, during, finally, immediately, in the meantime, in the past, later, next, meanwhile, now, since, soon, then, when, while.
- ❖ to indicate a relationship:
as a result, consequently, for this reason, in affiliation with, in comparison, in connection, in connection with, in contrast, in proportion, opposing, to parallel, therefore, thus, since, so.

Keep in mind, formal transitions, like *notwithstanding* or *in accordance with* may be appropriate for casual writing (as in a letter to a friend). *On the contrary*, try not to use casual or standard transitions, like *anyway* and *but* in formal documents, i.e., essays written for college. *In the meantime*, if you come across further transitions that are useful, put them on this sheet for quick reference, or report them to the Writing Center so we can add them to this list for others to employ. Thank you.

Compiled from: Ebest, S.B., Alred, G.J., Brusaw, C.T., & Oliu, W.E. (1997). Writing from A to Z: The easy-to-use reference handbook (2nd ed.). California: Mayfield Publishing Co.
Hacker, D. (1995). A writer's reference (3rd ed.). California: Mayfield Publishing Co.