

Common Transitional Words and Phrases

Ways to transition between opening sentences and the thesis:

This (situation, story, case) illustrates the point that ...

This (situation, story, case) is an example of today's problem of ...

As in the above situation, I believe ...

Although some people believe _____, I think ...

In a similar way ...

In view of this ...

Today ...

Ways to transition between body paragraphs:

One of the most important reasons why ... is ...

Another point is ...

Similarly ...

Also ...

Moreover ...

Likewise ...

In addition ...

Furthermore ...

Another example of this is ...

Besides ...

In fact ...

In other words ...

Next ...

Nevertheless ...

On the other hand ...

However ...

Consequently ...

Ways to transition from body paragraphs to the conclusion:

All things considered ...

Finally ...

To sum up ...

Thus ...

As a result ...

Obviously ...

In conclusion ...

Lastly ...

It becomes clear that ...

Therefore, in summary ...

Clearly ...

From this we see ...

Listed below are words you can use to show:

Support

as an example, for example, further, furthermore, similarly, also, for instance, as shown by

Main Points

and most important, a major development, there are three reasons why, remember that, now this is important

Contrast

on the one hand/on the other hand, on the contrary, in contrast, however, yet, still, nevertheless, not withstanding, for all that, by contrast, at the same time, although, while, a different view, in spite of, despite

Addition

one, another, similarly, moreover, furthermore, in addition, too, equally important, next, finally, first, second, third, besides, likewise, in the same way

Comparison

similarly, likewise, in like manner, both, each, in the same way

Conclusion

therefore, thus, then, consequently, as a consequence, as a result, accordingly, finally, for this (these) reason(s), on that account, because of, under these conditions, since

Explanation

for example, to illustrate, by way of illustration, to be specific, specifically, in particular, thus, for instance, in other words

Concession

naturally, granted, of course, to be sure, although, despite, in spite of, not withstanding, for all, while

Time

when, immediately, upon, since, first, earlier, meanwhile, at the same time, in the meantime, soon afterward, subsequently, later

Summation, Repetition, Intensification

to sum up, in brief, in short, in fact, indeed, in other words



Transition Worksheet

Functions of Transition Words

Sentences written in sequence are held together by chains of meaning. Those chains take definite forms that can be expressed by transition words and phrases. The following chart lists transition words and phrases grouped according to the specific idea or relationship that each word or phrase expresses. Study the list, and then do the exercises that follow.

Relationship Expressed	Transition Word or Phrase
Add another thought or emphasize a thought	<i>besides, also, what's more, furthermore, in addition, again</i>
Arrange ideas in order of time, space, importance	<i>first, next, then, finally, meanwhile, later, afterward, eventually, nearly, above, below, in front of, beyond, to the left, to the right</i>
Connect contrasting or opposite ideas	<i>still, however, on the one hand, on the other hand, yet, nevertheless, rather, on the contrary</i>
Add an illustration or explanation to an idea	<i>for example, for instance, in other words, specifically</i>
Show that one idea is a consequence or result of another idea	<i>so, therefore, consequently, accordingly</i>
Show that one idea is an exception to another idea	<i>of course, though, to be sure</i>
Show one idea as a summary of another idea	<i>in short, in brief, to sum up</i>
Show similarity between ideas	<i>in the same way, similarly, likewise</i>

Exercise 1

From the parentheses following each pair of sentences, choose the transition word or phrase that best expresses the chain of meaning between the two sentences. Write your choice in the blank.

- Would you like to start collecting stamps? _____, go to the library and take out a beginner's book on the hobby. (**Consequently, In brief, First**)
- When you are first learning to play any musical instrument, the task seems hopeless. _____, as you continue to practice you begin to see yourself make steady progress. (**However, Besides, Accordingly**)
- She is an excellent swimmer. _____, she is a fine all-round athlete. (**Indeed, Nevertheless, Accordingly**)
- Let the sauce simmer in the pan for at least an hour. You can begin, _____, to prepare the meat. (**above, on the other hand, meanwhile**)

5. Most people didn't like the new styles that the manufacturers were introducing. _____, prices for clothing had simply gotten too high. (**For example, So, Besides**)
6. Professional athletes can have enormous incomes. Nancy Lopez, _____, earned over one hundred thousand dollars in her rookie year as a golf pro. (**for example, so, besides**)
7. Because of carefully planned efforts, we are now waging a successful fight against damage to the environment. _____ we see that we can begin to solve our problems if we have the will. (**Therefore, Again, After**)
8. Angela was talented in math and science. Her sister, _____, was interested in golf and tennis. (**to be sure, on the other hand, consequently**)
9. Most basketball players are well above six feet tall. _____, there are some notable exceptions. (**To be sure, In fact, Eventually**)
10. The city itself lies in a valley. _____, the mountains can be seen rising majestically. (**Yet, Below, Beyond**)
11. The health dangers of cigarette smoking have been proved beyond a doubt. _____, people who continue to smoke are deliberately committing slow suicide. (**Also, In other words, Finally**)
12. Conservation measures seem to be the only short-range answer to the energy problem. Such measures, _____, will merely postpone the day of reckoning, the day when there simply is no more oil or coal or gas. (**consequently, however, moreover**)
13. Some scientists think that items not now considered edible will one day form an important part of our diet. _____, seaweed will appear on restaurant menus. (**For instance, Besides, In the same way**)

Exercise 2

Select a sentence or two from above, and develop a complete paragraph, paying close attention to transition words as you move from idea to idea.