

Transition Signals

Transition signals are connecting words or phrases that act like bridges between parts of your writing. They link your sentences and paragraphs together smoothly so that there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas. Transition signals act like signposts to indicate to the reader the order and flow of your writing and ideas. They strengthen the internal cohesion of your writing. Using transitions makes it easier for the reader to follow your ideas. They help carry over a thought from one sentence to another, from one paragraph to another, or from one idea to another.

There are several different transition signals. Some lead your reader forward and imply the building of an idea or thought, while others make your reader compare ideas or draw conclusions from the preceding thoughts. The following words and phrases can be used to indicate transitions and to cur your reader about how ideas are logically connected in your writing.

To introduce an example:

especially	in this case	take the case of
for example	one example of this is	to demonstrate
for instance	on this occasion	to illustrate
frequently	specifically	

To show agreement:

of course	admittedly	it is true that
certainly	no doubt	

To introduce an additional idea:

additionally	as well as	in addition
again	besides	moreover
also	equally important	one could also say
and	finally	nor
and then	further	not to mention
another	furthermore	

To indicate sequence or order, or logically divide an idea:

after	eventually	previously
afterwards	finally	second
and then	first	simultaneously
at this point	followed by	subsequently
at this time	last	third
before	meanwhile	ultimately
concurrently	next	

To indicate time:

after	earlier	previously
afterwards	finally	prior to
at this point	formerly	soon
at this time	immediately	then
before	initially	thereafter
during	later	to this day

To compare:

just	like similarly	another way to view this
balanced against	likewise	whereas
by comparison	like	while

To contrast:

a different view is	even so	nevertheless
and	however	notwithstanding
balanced against	in contrast	still
but	on the contrary	unlike
conversely	on the other hand	yet
differing from		

To introduce an opposite idea or show exception:

alternatively	in contrast	on the other hand
but	in spite of	still
despite	instead	whereas
even though	nevertheless	while
however	one could also say	yet

To show cause and effect:

and so	consequently	therefore
as a consequence	for this reason	thus
as a result	hence	

To summarize or conclude:

as a result	in conclusion	therefore
as shown	in other words	thus
consequently	in summary	to conclude
finally	on the whole	to summarize
hence	summing up	ultimately
in brief		