

Common Transitional Words and Phrases

These words will help you achieve a smooth transition between paragraphs and/or subjects. If you have any questions on how to use them, please feel free to come to the STAR Center and see Mandy Davis for help.

To show sequence

first, second, third, then, after, afterward, since, before, when, whenever, until, as soon as, as long as, while, again, also, besides, finally, furthermore, last, moreover, next, still, too

To show cause and effect

therefore, thus, consequently, as a result, for this reason, so, so that, accordingly, because, for this purpose, hence, thereupon, to this end, since

To compare

similarly, likewise, in like manner, also, in fact, actually, indeed, certainly, again, in the same way, once more

To contrast

however, on the one hand/on the other hand, in contrast, conversely, but, yet, on the contrary, nevertheless, nonetheless, still, notwithstanding, despite, still, although, even though, in spite of, instead, regardless

To show addition

and, in addition, also, furthermore, moreover, besides, next, again, too, second, third, another, finally

To indicate time

before, now, after, afterwards,
subsequently, later, earlier,
meanwhile, in the meantime, while,
as long as, so far, after a bit, after a
few days, after a while, as soon as,
at last, at length, at that time,
before, earlier, immediately, in the
meantime, in the past, lately,
presently, shortly, simultaneously,
since, then, thereafter, until, when

To give examples

for example, for instance,
specifically, namely, to illustrate,
that is, in particular, after all, even,
indeed, in fact, of course, such as,
the following example

To generalize

in general, for the most part, as a
general rule, on the whole, usually,
typically

To emphasize a point

indeed, in fact, as matter of fact,
even

To show Place

above, adjacent to, below, beyond,
closer to, elsewhere, far, farther on,
here, near, nearby, opposite to,
there, to the left, to the right

To show qualification

frequently, often, usually, in general,
occasionally, provided, in case,
unless, when, since, because, for, if

To signal concession

of course, naturally, although it is true that, granted that, I admit that, it may appear that, although, though, no doubt, to be sure, whereas, of course, doubtless, certainly

To conclude or summarize

in conclusion, to conclude, in summary, to summarize, in short, in other words, therefore, thus, in reality, as a result, as has been noted, as I have said, as we have seen, as mentioned earlier, in any event, on the whole, therefore