

Transitions

Transition can be defined as a passage, and in writing, means movement from one subject to another. Transitions are used to bridge, clarify and amplify a thought in writing. Without using transitions, changes from subject to another can be abrupt, confusing the reader and/or interrupting the flow of the writing. Using transitions also helps to connect relationships between ideas, as well as direct your reader so that they can see the logic of your argument.

Transitional Words – One way transitions can be made is through the use of specific words. It's important to note that transitional words are not just added as embellishments or flowery speech. These words have particular meaning and are used to help establish a logical relationship and give your reader cues how to react or think about your ideas.

Here are some examples of how transition words can help:

Without a transition: TWU offers fine educational opportunities to students in a variety of disciplines and areas. Teachers are helpful, and there are many accommodations and services to help students achieve academic success. If students don't access the available assistance, it's not much help.

With a transition: TWU offers fine educational opportunities to students in a variety of disciplines and areas. Teachers are helpful, and there are many accommodations and services to help students achieve academic success. *However*, if students don't access the available assistance it's not much help.

The Writing Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill offers these examples of the proper use of transitional words:

Similarity	also, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, similarly
Exception/Contrast	but, however, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet
Sequence/Order	first, second, third, ... next, then, finally
Time	after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then
Example	for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate
Emphasis	even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly
Place/Position	above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there
Cause and Effect	accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus
Additional Support or Evidence	additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then
Conclusion/Summary	finally, in a word, in brief, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, to sum up, in summary

Types of Transitions

Transitions may be used **between sections**, especially in longer writings to help summarize information just presented and to bridge the information to the next discussion. Transitions may also be used **between paragraphs** to make a bridge showing the relationship with the previous one and can be a phrase, a sentence or a word or two. These transitions can be at the beginning of a paragraph or at the end. Finally, transitions can be used **within paragraphs** to help cue readers that a change is coming before they read it, and in this use, tend to be words or short phrases.

Here are some examples of how transitional phrasings help:

With no transition: A wide variety of scheduled classes are available for TWU students to choose from. There are also many extracurricular activities, and the state-of-the-art fitness center offers exercise equipment, classes and even dietary help. Parking is available for a yearly fee of \$65.00.

With a written transition: A wide variety of scheduled classes are available for TWU students to choose from. There are also many extracurricular activities, and the state-of-the-art fitness center offers exercise equipment, classes and even dietary help. *To help meet the needs of commuter students*, parking is available for a yearly fee of \$65.00.

When used correctly, transitions are an effective way to help move the reader through your writing by establishing logical relationships, enhancing a thought, or bridging one topic to another. Use transitions to help your writing flow smoothly and to clarify bridges or amplify your thoughts. Several online sites offer useful information on transitions. To find these sites, search under the key words: transitions and/or transition words.

