

Transitions are words, phrases, or sentences used to connect ideas. Adding transitions between sentences or paragraphs improves the clarity and flow of the writing. This resource provides general information about transitions, but writers should always tailor their work to their audience and assignment.

Transition Words and Phrases

Transitional words or phrases are used to connect two consecutive sentences containing two different ideas.

No Transition: Henry did not understand his homework. He failed his test.

Clear Transition: Henry did not understand his homework. **As a result**, he failed his test.

Transitions can convey addition, contrast, concession, cause and effect, examples, conclusion, or chronology of different ideas. Be sure to use transitions that accurately describe the relationship between topics.

Confusing Transition: The news said it would rain today. **Thus**, it did not rain today.

Clear Transition: The news said it would rain today. **However**, it did not rain today.

Transition Sentences

In some cases, a complete sentence might be required between paragraphs to help readers follow along as the writer introduces new ideas. Effective transition sentences remind readers of important information and demonstrate how that information is connected to the next main idea. In the following example, the sentence at the beginning of the second paragraph transitions from an old idea to a new idea by linking exercise and diet as essential factors in maintaining good health.

. . . Doctors have demonstrated that people who exercise regularly experience less pain and live longer lives. Therefore, establishing a daily exercise routine is a necessary part of maintaining good health.

In addition to exercise, a well-balanced diet is essential to a healthy life. Any well-balanced diet should include plenty of vegetables and other vitamin-rich foods. . .

Common Transitions

Comprehensive lists of different ideas for transitions can be found in many different places online or in a thesaurus. The following charts list some common transitions used to indicate relationships between ideas:

Addition	Contrast	Concession	Cause & Effect
Additionally	Although	Admittedly	As a result
Also	But	Certainly	Because
Furthermore	Despite	Clearly	Consequently
In addition	However	Granted	Since
Likewise	In contrast	Naturally	So
Moreover	Instead	Of course	Therefore
Not only	On the contrary	Undeniably	Due to
Similarly	On the other hand	Understandably	Thus

Examples	Conclusions	Time & Order	Time & Order
Like	Finally	After	Shortly
For example	Generally	At once	Soon after
For instance	In brief	Before	Still
In particular	To conclude	During	Until
Specifically	In summary	First, next . . .	When
Such as	In short	If . . . then . . .	Simultaneously
To illustrate	Last but not least	Meanwhile	Subsequently