



{TRANSITIONS}

What is a transition?

A transitional sentence is a sentence used to switch from one topic to another. Transitions are most often used when starting a new paragraph in academic writing. In the table below you will find many transitional words used to show relationships that you can build an effective transition off of.

What is the purpose of using transitions?

Using transitions guides the reader through your paper and signals relationships between one part of your paper or argument and another. A reader could completely miss a connection between two points if proper transitions are not used. Don't assume that your evidence will speak for itself! Instead, use clear transitions.

BASIC FORMULA:

BREIFLY repeat main idea or word in previous sentence/paragraph + introduce new idea

Example: The following sentence would transition from a paragraph about *people* left homeless in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to a paragraph about the *animals* left homeless there after the hurricane. The underlined fragment shows an example of use of a transitional phrase.

In addition to thousands of people being left homeless after Hurricane Katrina, thousands of animals were left without owners or homes, as well.

TRANSITIONAL WORDS AND PHRASES

Illustration	thus, for example, for instance, namely, to illustrate, in other words, in particular, specifically, such as
Contrast	despite, on the contrary, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, although this may be true, surely, notwithstanding, indeed...but, even so, for all that, instead, on the contrary, otherwise
Addition	in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, too, also, both-and, another, equally important, again, further, last, finally, not only-but also, as well as, in the second place, next, likewise, similarly, in fact, as a result, consequently, in the same way, for example, for instance, however, thus, therefore, furthermore, and
Time	since, afterward, before, then, once, next, at last, at length, formerly, rarely, usually, finally, soon, meanwhile, later, ordinarily, generally, in order to, subsequently, previously, immediately, eventually, concurrently, simultaneously, first, second, as soon as, at that time
Concession	although, at any rate, at least, still, though, even though, granted that, although it may be true, in spite of, of course, accordingly, to be fair, while it's true, in truth
Comparison showing Similarity	similarly, likewise, in like fashion, in like manner, analogous to, in the same way
Emphasis	above all, indeed, truly, of course, certainly, surely, in fact, really
General	commonly, for the most part, in general, on the whole, usually, typically
To Conclude	as a result, hence, finally, in short, on the whole, therefore, thus, in conclusion, all in all, altogether, in other words, in summary, to sum it up
Cause and Effect	as a result, because, for this reason, if, so, consequently, thus