



Transitions

Transitional words and phrases connect paragraphs, sentences, phrases, and words. By signaling connections and indicating relationships between ideas, transitions add coherence and flow.

Transitions between sentences and ideas

When connecting ideas between and within sentences, transitions can indicate cause and effect, sequence of time, comparisons, contrasts, examples, and conclusions. Note the variety of transitions in each the following excerpts from Cullington and from Turkle:

Furthermore, those who favor texting explain that with practice comes the confidence and courage to try new things, which some observers believe they are seeing happen with writing *as a result* of texting. Teenagers have, *for example*, created an entirely new language—one that uses abbreviations and symbols instead of words, does not require punctuation, and uses short, incomplete phrases throughout the entire conversation. (Cullington 365)

Classical analysis shielded the patient from the analyst's gaze *in order to* facilitate free association, the golden rule of saying whatever comes to mind. *Likewise*, at a screen, you feel protected and less burdened by expectations. *And, although* you are alone, the potential for almost instantaneous contact gives an encouraging feeling of already being together. (Turkle 374)

Transitions between paragraphs

Writers sometimes use transitional words and phrases to connect paragraphs:

Yet, while Jacksonians tended toward an essentially static conception of economic reality, they imbued economic inequality with a dynamic nature which actively worked to mold a socioeconomic system in which the many would be locked in permanent dependence upon a wealthy few.

Like the Jacksonians, the Populist conception of a just society placed far greater importance on the relatively equal distribution of wealth than it did on economic growth. (Hughes 71)

Varying use of transitions

If you need to add variety when using transitions, select from the menu on the following page.

However, the study showed that users checked their smartphones 85 times daily.

But the study showed that users checked their smartphones 85 times daily.

By contrast, study results showed that users checked their smartphones 85 times daily.

Menu of Transitional Words and Phrases

| Sequence or time | Addition | Cause and effect |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------|
| first, second, etc | and | because |
| before | in addition | so |
| after | also | thus |
| subsequently | furthermore | consequently |
| finally | after all | for |
| to conclude | moreover | therefore |
| initially | to sum up | as a result |
| next | in the end | for this reason |
| besides | again | to this end |

| Comparison | Contrast | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| similarly | although | however |
| likewise | even though | instead |
| like | whereas | on the contrary |
| also | unlike | yet |
| resembling | on the one hand | rather than |
| once more | on the other hand | despite |
| in comparison | though | by contrast |
| in the same way | but | still |

| Example or narrowing of focus | | Conclusion |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| for example | such as | in conclusion |
| when | for instance | as a result |
| in the case of | to illustrate | in other words |
| in other words | namely | to summarize |
| unless | in particular | in any event |
| specifically | in fact | on the whole |
| that is | of course | therefore |

Works Consulted

- Cullington, Michaella. "Does Texting Affect Writing?" *They Say, I Say*. 3rd ed. Eds. Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russell Durst. New York: Norton, 2015. 373-91. Print.
- Hughes, John F. "The Jacksonians, the Populists, and the Government Habit." *Forging the American Character: Readings in United States History Since 1865*. 2nd ed. Ed. John R. M. Wilson. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 1997. 67-80. Print.
- Lunsford, Andrea A. *The St. Martin's Handbook*. 8th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2015. Print.
- Turkle, Sherry. "No Need to Call." *They Say, I Say*. 3rd ed. Eds. Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russell Durst. New York: Norton, 2015. 373-91. Print.