

Transitional Words & Phrases

If you wish to be a writer,
write.
Epictetus
Roman, 50-120

Reading &
Writing

English
(home site)

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Using transitional words and phrases
helps papers read more smoothly by providing coherence

A coherent paper allows the reader
to flow from the first supporting point to the last.

Transitions indicate relations,
whether from sentence to sentence, or from paragraph to paragraph.
This is a list of "relationships" that supporting ideas may have,
followed by a list of "transitional" words and phrases
that can connect those ideas:

Addition:

also, besides, furthermore, in addition, moreover, again

Consequence:

accordingly, as a result, consequently, hence, otherwise,
so then, therefore, thus, thereupon

Summarizing:

after all, all in all, all things considered, briefly, by and
large, in any case, in any event, in brief, in conclusion,
on the whole, in short, in summary, in the final
analysis, in the long run, on balance, to sum up, to
summarize, finally

Generalizing:

as a rule, as usual, for the most part,
generally, generally speaking, ordinarily, usually

Restatement:

in essence, in other words, namely, that is, that is to
say,
in short, in brief, to put it differently

Contrast and Comparison:

contrast, by the same token, conversely, instead,
likewise,
on one hand, on the other hand, on the contrary, rather,
similarly, yet, but, however, still, nevertheless, in
contrast

Sequence:

at first, first of all, to begin with, in the first place, at the same time,
for now, for the time being, the next step, in time, in turn, later on,
meanwhile, next, then, soon, the meantime, later, while, earlier,
simultaneously, afterward, in conclusion

Diversion:

by the way, incidentally

Illustration:

for example, for instance, for one thing

Similarity:

likewise, similar, moreover

Direction:

here, there, over there, beyond, nearly, opposite, under, above,
to the left, to the right, in the distance

For more information, please see:

The Gregg Reference Manual
The Brief English Handbook
The Least You Should Know About English

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