List of Transition Words for Essays

Agreement / Addition / Similarity

The transitional devices like ***also, in addition, and, likewise***, **add information**, **reinforce ideas** , and **express agreement** with preceding material.

- in the first place
- not only ... but also
- as a matter of fact
- in like manner
- in addition
- coupled with
- in the same fashion / way
- first, second, third
- in the light of
- not to mention
- to say nothing of
- equally important
- by the same token
- again
- to
- and
- also
- then
- equally
- identically
- uniquely
- like

- as
- too
- moreover
- as well as
- together with
- of course
- likewise
- comparatively
- correspondingly
- similarly
- furthermore
- additionally

Opposition / Limitation / Contradiction

Transition words like ***but***, ***rather*** and ***or***, express that there is evidence to the **contrary** or point out**alternatives**, and thus introduce a change the line of reasoning (**contrast**).

- **although this may be true**
- **in contrast**
- **different from**
- **of course …, but**
- **on the other hand**
- **on the contrary**
- **at the same time**
- **in spite of**
- **even so / though**
- **be that as it may**
- **then again**

- **above all**
- **in reality**
- **after all**
- **but**
- (and) **still**
- **unlike**
- **or**
- (and) **yet**
- **while**
- **albeit**
- **besides**
- **although**
- **instead**
- **whereas**
- **despite**
- **conversely**
- **otherwise**
- **however**
- **rather**
- **nevertheless**
- **regardless**
- **notwithstanding**

Examples / Support / Emphasis

These transitional devices (like ***especially***) are used to introduce examples as **support**, to indicate**importance** or as an **illustration** so that an idea is cued to the reader.

- **in other words**

- **to put it differently**
- **for one thing**
- **as an illustration**
- **in this case**
- **for this reason**
- **to put it another way**
- **that is to say**
- **with attention to**
- **by all means**

- **important to realize**
- **another key point**
- **first thing to remember**
- **most compelling evidence**
- **must be remembered**
- **point often overlooked**
- **to point out**
- **on the positive / negative side**
- **with this in mind**
- **notably**
- **including**
- **like**
- **to be sure**
- **namely**
- **chiefly**
- **truly**
- **indeed**
- **certainly**
- **surely**

- **markedly**

- **especially**
- **specifically**
- **expressively**
- **surprisingly**
- **frequently**
- **significantly**
- **in fact**
- **in general**
- **in particular**
- **in detail**
- **for example**
- **for instance**
- **to demonstrate**
- **to emphasize**
- **to repeat**
- **to clarify**
- **to explain**
- **to enumerate**
- **such as**

Cause / Condition / Purpose

These transitional words present specific **conditions** or **intentions**.

- **in the event that**
- **granted (that)**
- **as / so long as**
- **on (the) condition (that)**

- **for the purpose of**
- **with this intention**
- **with this in mind**
- **in the hope that**
- **to the end that**
- **for fear that**
- **in order to**
- **seeing / being that**
- **in view of**
- **If**
- **… then**
- **unless**

- **when**
- **whenever**
- **since**
- **while**

- **because of**
- **as**
- **since**
- **while**
- **lest**
- **in case**
- **provided that**
- **given that**
- **only / even if**
- **so that**
- **so as to**
- **owing to**

- **inasmuch as**
- **due to**

Effect / Consequence / Result

Some of these transition words (***thus, then, accordingly, consequently, therefore, henceforth***) are time words that are used to show that ***after*** a particular time there was a **consequence** or an **effect**.

Note that ***for*** and ***because*** are placed before the cause/reason. The other devices are placed before the consequences or effects.

- **as a result**
- **under those circumstances**
- **in that case**
- **for this reason**
- **for**
- **thus**
- **because the**
- **then**
- **hence**
- **consequently**
- **therefore**
- **thereupon**
- **forthwith**
- **accordingly**
- **henceforth**

Conclusion / Summary / Restatement

These transition words and phrases **conclude**, **summarize** and/or**restate** ideas, or a indicate a final**general statement**. Also some words (like ***therefore***) from the **Effect / Consequence** category can be used to summarize.

- **as can be seen**
- **generally speaking**
- **in the final analysis**
- **all things considered**
- **as shown above**
- **in the long run**
- **given these points**
- **as has been noted**
- **in a word**
- **for the most part**
- **after all**
- **in fact**
- **in summary**
- **in conclusion**
- **in short**
- **in brief**
- **in essence**
- **to summarize**
- **on balance**
- **altogether**
- **overall**
- **ordinarily**
- **usually**
- **by and large**

- **to sum up**
- **on the whole**
- **in any event**
- **in either case**
- **all in all**