Transitional Words and Phrases
DePauw University Writing Center

Transitional words and phrases link one idea to another, bringing unity to a piece of writing. The following list includes some of the mostly commonly used transitions; they are divided into categories that reflect the relationship between ideas:

**To Show Time**
- after, afterward, always, as soon as, as last, at once, briefly, eventually, finally, first (second, third, fourth...), immediately, in the meantime, in the past (future), last, later, meanwhile, next, never, now, often, once, promptly, sometime, soon, suddenly, then

**To Show Place**
- above, among, around, at this point, behind, below, beside, beyond, down, forward, from here, in front of, inside, nearby, next to, on, on the other side, opposite, out, outside, over, through, to, under

**To Add an Idea**
- again; also; and, as well as, besides, finally, first, for one thing, further, furthermore, in addition, last, likewise, more, moreover, next, now, similarly, too

**To Illustrate or Explain an Idea**
- for example, for instance, in other words, in particular, namely, specifically, such as, that is, thus, to illustrate

**To Compare or Contrast Ideas**
- although, as, as if, but conversely, despite, even so, however, in contrast, in spite of, instead of, in the same way, likewise, nevertheless, now, on the contrary, on the other hand, otherwise, still, though, unlike, whereas, while, yet

**To Exclude an Idea**
- apart from, barring, but except, excluding, instead, instead of, outside of, rather, ruling out

**To Show a Conditional Idea (one idea dependent on another)**
- as long as, in case of, if, provided that, unless, whether, with, without

**To Show a Result**
- accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, for that reason, hence, so, then, therefore, thus

**To Emphasize an Idea**
- above all, certainly, especially, indeed, in fact, most important, particularly

**To Summarize an Idea**
- as has been noted, finally, in brief, in other words, in short, on the whole, ultimately

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