

# Transitional Words and Phrases<sup>31</sup>

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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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<sup>31</sup> Used with permission from M.C. Markman at California Lutheran University.