

# Transitions and Transitional Phrases

Paragraphs in a composition (as well as sentences in each paragraph) must have continuity if the reader is to follow the author's ideas easily. Therefore, transitions are important to establish a good flow for an essay. Two paragraphs can be smoothly linked together by making the first sentence of the second paragraph a "bridge" sentence, showing the reader how the paragraphs are related. Almost all transitions require commas. Always edit your essay to make sure your choice of transitions makes sense.

Here is a list of some transitions you can use in your papers.

(\*Try to avoid using transition words marked with an asterisk in the beginning of a sentence.)

<b><u>ADDITIONAL ITEMS</u></b>	
add to this also and* and then*	besides equally important first, second, third further
<b><u>CAUSAL RELATION</u></b>	
accordingly and yet* because* because of	due to as a result of still
<b><u>COMPARISON</u></b>	
also here again	in like manner
<b><u>CONDITIONS</u></b>	
although even though	if in like manner
<b><u>INSTANCES</u></b>	
another (example, idea, etc.) even more first, second, third	for example for instance



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<b><u>REPEATING</u></b>	
for example	indeed
for instance	in fact
in any event	in other words
in brief	
<b><u>CONVICTION OR EMPHASIS</u></b>	
accordingly	evidently
after all	for all that
apparently	furthermore
at the same time	hence
certainly	however
consequently	
<b><u>CONTRAST</u></b>	
but*	in contrast to
conversely	contrary to
notwithstanding	on the contrary
in contrast	however
<b><u>SEQUENCE IN TIME</u></b>	
after	before
after a few days	prior to
after a few years	by that time
afterward	at this point
at length	at this time
<b><u>CONCLUSION</u></b>	
accordingly	in conclusion
as a rule	on the whole
consequently	therefore
finally	to conclude

Here is an example passage that uses various transition words:

Americans walked on the moon during six separate flights in NASA's Apollo program. *However*, before any flights landed on the moon, NASA launched



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astronauts in several Saturn IB rockets to test various components of the planned moon landings. *For example*, they had to learn to orbit the moon, as that would be part of the missions. *Additionally*, the Lunar Module, the part of the spacecraft that would land on the surface, was tested on one of the early flights.

### Transitional Phrases

In some cases, using just a couple of words might not work well to move from one topic to the next. Transitional phrases can help to make the entire piece of writing flow in an explicit, cohesive, coherent, logical, and unified manner.

### How do I Form Transitional Phrases?

Each transitional phrase needs a connector (the transition words themselves), a reference form (often a pronoun or adjective), and a classifier (a noun, sometimes modified by one or more adjectives).

### Here are some examples:

Connector	+	Reference Form	+	Classifier
Due to		this		problem
In view of		those		three economic facts
In contrast to		such		advantages
In addition to		another		person
Similar to		the		previous example
In spite of		these		disadvantages

Here is a sample passage with transitional phrases:

Over the past several years, the public has received more and more negative information about eating fast food. The nutritional value of fast food has been questioned: often fast food lacks vegetables and whole grains, which provide nutrients and fiber. This food may contain large quantities of sugar, fat, and salt, which have been linked to obesity and type II diabetes. *Despite*



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*the disadvantages of fast food*, more and more people seem to be eating at fast food restaurants, probably for the convenience and low prices.

The fast food industry, however, has responded. Now customers are greeted with signs on the windows of restaurants stating that the food is made without trans-fats. Also, menus have begun to include salads, fruit, and lighter options that are lower in fat and carbohydrates. In fact, restaurants even publish the nutritional information about each item on the menu. *Due to these changes*, it might now be possible to find healthier options at fast food restaurants.

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**References** - The following works were used during the creation of this handout: "Transitions." *The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*, n.d., [writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/transitions/](http://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/transitions/). Accessed 28 June 2018.

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Note: This handout is based on two previous handouts by Christine Day and Wendy Fu.



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