

TRANSITIONAL WORDS AND PHRASES

Effective transitions establish logical relationships between sentences, between paragraphs, and between whole sections of text. The writer uses them to recall for the reader that which has already been said and to help the reader anticipate that which is about to follow.

Following are some common transitional words and phrases; one or more from each category is used in context:

Transitions signalling addition

equally important	likewise	also
besides	by the same token	and
too	similarly	again
what is more	as well as	at the same time
in addition	further	moreover

I have a degree in Early Childhood Education; **furthermore**, I have six years' experience working with young children.

In addition to my degree in Early Childhood Education, I have six years' experience working with young children.

Transitions signalling time

after; after a while	in the meantime	thereafter	next
afterwards	before	until	then
as long as	in the past	in the future	meanwhile
as soon as	lately	ultimately	at length
at last; finally	presently	first	later
formerly	shortly	second	now
since	so far	while	in turn
subsequently	earlier	simultaneously	

They will write their exams from 4-6:00 p.m.; **immediately afterwards**, they will proceed to the banquet.

Transitions signalling comparison

similarly	likewise	in a like manner
at the same time	in the same way	by the same token
also	in comparison	in turn

The patriarch in House of Hate creates within his household an atmosphere of fear; **similarly**, in The Time of Their Lives, the grandfather instills a perpetual fear in the lives of his children and his wife.

In the same way that the patriarch in House of Hate creates an atmosphere of fear in his household, the grandfather in The Time of Their Lives instills a perpetual fear in the lives of his children and his wife.

Transitions signalling contrast

but at the same time	regardless	in contrast
despite	though	conversely
even so	nonetheless	notwithstanding
even though	nevertheless	for all that
on the other hand	however	but
in spite of	yet	whereas
on the contrary	still	

The settlers worked very hard; **however**, they did not manage to harvest sufficient food to ensure their survival.

Though the settlers worked very hard, they did not manage to harvest sufficient food to ensure their survival.

Transitions signalling cause or effect

for this purpose	as a consequence	hence
since	so	thus
then	as a result	in short
to this end	thereupon	because
with this object	accordingly	therefore

The captain ignored his own good judgement; **consequently**, the ship was lost at sea.

Because the captain ignored his own good judgement, the ship was lost at sea.

Transitions signalling example

such as	for instance	specifically
in particular	an illustration of	namely
to demonstrate	to illustrate	even

Newfoundland offers many amenities unavailable in most of North America; **for example**, we have very little air pollution.

Transitions signalling explanation

indeed	in other words	put another way
in fact	simply stated	

He had a successful term; **that is**, he attained A's in all his courses.

Transitions signalling concession

after all	of course	even though
at the same time	actually	

I was disappointed in The Titanic; **at the same time**, I have to agree that it was a technically masterful production.

Even though I was disappointed in The Titanic, I have to agree that it was a technically masterful production.

Transitions signalling place or direction

above/over	there	opposite to
below/beneath	to the east	nearby
elsewhere	around	to the left
farther on	beyond	adjacent to
on the other side	next to	where

The audience first views a woman standing at the edge of the ocean. **Nearby**, a bunch of children are splashing each other in the shallow surf.

Transitions signalling summary or conclusion

in essence	in conclusion	in brief
altogether	in closing	to conclude
as has been said	in summary	in retrospect
as has been indicated	to summarize	in other words
to sum up	in simpler terms	all in all
on the whole		

Janice had rewritten all her lecture notes, participated in three group reviews, and reread all assigned readings; **in short**, she was prepared to write the exam.

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