

CONFUSING TRANSITIONS

Grammar

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT



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TRANSITIONS

The English language offers a variety of transitional words to establish connections between sentences, paragraphs, and sections.

Some transitions can be challenging to use in a sentence because of similar meanings and specific usages. It is important to select transitions carefully so that the audience comprehends the topic.

LOCATION

Transitions are typically located at the start of a sentence, but can be positioned in the middle or end of a sentence. Commas and or semi-colons are used with transition signals depending on their location.

The following is a discussion of *confusing transitions* problematic for writers.

Conversely

- Use when one circumstance is the complete opposite of another circumstance

*Living and working internationally can expand one's knowledge and appreciation of other cultures. **Conversely**, such an experience can encourage appreciation of one's own homeland.*

For example, For instance

- Have the same meaning
- Common in academic contexts

*Revitalizing abandoned infrastructure is common in urban areas. **For instance**, the High Line in New York City is a transformation of a roadway in to a public garden and walking area.*

Granted, Nevertheless, Nonetheless, Even so

- Words to signal concession
- Conceding means acknowledging an idea is correct, but another idea is better or more important
- *Granted* functions like **yes**
- *Nonetheless*, *Nevertheless*, and *Even So* function like **but**

***Granted**, university is expensive. I will register regardless.*

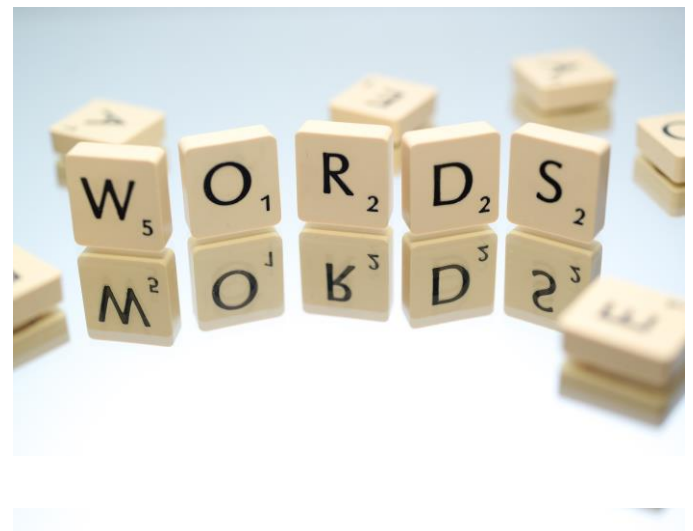
*Attending university is expensive. **Nonetheless**, I will register.*

Hence

- Indicates a result
- Located at the start or middle of a clause, but not the end

*The thunderstorm damaged the transmission lines. **Hence**, the city lost power.*

*The driver hit black ice; **hence**, the car went out of control.*



In contrast

- Signals that two ideas are very different

Lethbridge, Alberta is the windiest place in Canada. **In contrast**, Kelowna, British Columbia is the least windy.

Sitting down to knit requires little prep; **in contrast**, painting involves substantial planning.

Instead, Rather, Alternatively

- Provide an option or additional idea
- **This, not that** idea uses *instead* and *rather*
- **This or that** uses *alternatively*

The blizzard conditions caused the theatre to close. **Instead**, the musicians moved their performance online. **Alternatively**, the musicians had the option to reschedule their performance.

Moreover, Furthermore, In addition

- Similar to the word **and**
- Indicates that more information follows

The new swimming facility will accommodate all the swim teams in the city. **In addition**, it will provide swim lessons to the public.

On the one hand, On the other hand

- Highlights STRONG differences
- *On the other hand* is stronger than **but**

One the one hand, biomimicry can improve energy use. **On the other hand**, such innovations require substantial financial support.

On the contrary

- Complicated to use properly
- To emphasis a rejected idea, thus stating the opposite is true

Essay writing is not the only skill required in university. **On the contrary**, critical thinking, organization, and time management are all essentials.

To enumerate, To elaborate

- To indicate a numbered list use *to enumerate*
- To indicate a detailed list discussing the main ideas use *to elaborate*

There are many reasons to learn a second language. **To enumerate**, first, an additional language will increase employment; second, it will assist with travel; third, it will encourage cultural understanding.

Speaking a second language is valuable for numerous reasons. **To elaborate**, it can boost employment, assist with travel, and encourage cultural understanding.

Subsequently, Consequently, As a consequence

- *Subsequently* refers to later
- *Consequently* and *as a consequence* indicate a result like *therefore*

The city had planned to update the aquatic centre last year. **Subsequently**, the proposal was placed on backburner.

The city plans to update the aquatic centre. **Consequently**, the recreation fees need to be increased to manage expenses.

Sources:

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