**Transitions**



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Definition

Transitions take the reader smoothly from one idea to another in your paper. Transitional expressions create a relationship between one word and another, one phrase and another, one sentence and another, or even one paragraph and another. Be careful to not just toss in transitions because you think you need one; make sure that it is the right transition for the right moment.

Examples

**Addition**

also

in addition

too

moreover

and

besides

furthermore

equally important

then

finally

additionally

**Example**

for example

for instance

thus

as an illustration

namely

specifically

**Contradiction/ Exception/ Contrast**

but

yet

however

nevertheless

nonetheless

conversely

in contrast

still

at the same time

on the one hand

on the other hand

unlike…

whereas

although…

**Comparison**

similarly

likewise

in the same way

and in common with…

as…

**Sequence**

before

soon

later

meanwhile

subsequently

immediately

eventually

currently

**Time**

first, second (etc)

next

then

finally

afterward

prior to

**Result or Cause and Effect**

therefore

thus

as a result

so

accordingly

consequently

**Summary**

Hence

In short

In brief

In summary

In conclusion

Finally

Practice

1. Look in your first body paragraph and try to find any places where you need transitional words. Look for places where you are showing contrast, similarity, addition, example, etc. and make sure you have the right words for the job. Jot down at least one of those transitions here.
2. Look at the last sentence of one of your body paragraphs and jot down some transitional expressions that you could use as the first sentence of the subsequent paragraph. Which transition seems to work the best? Now do this for each of your body paragraphs.
3. Apply this technique to the entire paper as you revise, looking for places where you need to help the reader see the relationships between ideas, sentences, examples, etc.