

TRANSITIONS

Transitions are words, phrases, and sentences that guide readers as they move through a text and signal connections among ideas. Transitional words, phrases, and sentences guide the reader in much the same way as road signs guide a motorist. Writers use transitions both within paragraphs and between paragraphs.

WITHIN PARAGRAPHS: Use transitions to link ideas within the paragraph. Use only those that are necessary to make your ideas clear. Too many transitions distract the reader from your message and slow down the rhythm of your language. Therefore, use only those that you need.

In the following paragraph, transitions, which are boldfaced, are effectively used:

Although he was a delinquent in many ways, his mother still loved him. **Even though** he often skipped school and was once arrested for breaking street lights, his mother kept right on loving him. **At one time**, he even stole a car. He was also a bully at school, and **although** he was intelligent, he still made poor grades. **Even though** his mother, of course, was worried and hurt, she never let him know. She was always there. She believed in him, and she let him know it. He never felt deserted because she always stood behind him. **Finally**, he reformed. A mother's love, in this case, paid off.

PARAGRAPH TO PARAGRAPH: Use transitional expressions in essays to connect ideas from paragraph to paragraph. Usually in effective paragraphs, writers can use transitional sentences in the lead sentence and in the last sentence. When the lead sentence is used as a transitional sentence, the writer makes clear the paragraph's connection to the previous paragraph.

As the final sentence in a paragraph, a transitional sentence can mention information that will appear in the next paragraph, thereby alerting the reader to a topic change.

TO INDICATE A CONCLUSION OR A RESULT:

Accordingly
As a result
As a consequence
As I have said
For that reason
Inevitably
In other words
Necessarily
On the whole
Thus

TO INTRODUCE AN ILLUSTRATION:

As an example
Especially
For example
For instance
In other words
In particular
Namely
To illustrate
That is

TO MAKE A QUALIFICATION OR CONTRAST:

After all
Although
By contrast
Despite
However
In contrast
In spite of
Nevertheless
On the contrary
On the other hand
Though
Whereas
Yet

TO SHOW CAUSE AND EFFECT:

Accordingly
As a consequence as a result
Consequently
Necessarily
Since
Then
Therefore
Thus

TO MARK THE PLACE:

Above that
At this point
Beyond that
On the other side

TO ADD A THOUGHT:

Again
Also
As well
Besides
Beyond that
Equally important
Finally
For one thing
Further
In addition
Moreover
Nor
Or
Similarly

TO EMPHASIZE:

Above all
Certainly
Especially
In any event
Indeed
In fact
In particular
Most important
Surely

TO EMPHASIZE TIME OR SPACE:

Afterward
After a while
Briefly
Eventually
Formerly
Gradually
Immediately
In a short time
In the future
In the meantime
Later
Meanwhile
Promptly
Soon
Suddenly

TO SHOW COMPARISON:

In the same way
Likewise
To this end

TO INDICATE A REASON:

For this purpose
For this reason
To this end