TRANSITION WORDS

To improve your writing you need to make sure that your ideas, both in sentences and paragraphs, stick together or have coherence and that the gap between ideas is bridged smoothly. One way to do this is by using transitions - words or phrases or techniques that help bring two ideas together. Transitional words and phrases represent one way of gaining coherence. Certain words help continue an idea, indicate a shift of thought or contrast, or sum up a conclusion. Check the following list of words to find those that will pull your sentences and paragraphs together.

For continuing a common line of reasoning:

- consequently
- clearly, then
- furthermore
- additionally
- and
- in addition
- moreover
- because
- besides that
- in the same way
- following this further
- also
- pursuing this further
- in the light of the... it is easy to see that

To change the line of reasoning (contrast):

- however
- on the other hand
- but
- yet
- nevertheless
- on the contrary

For opening a paragraph initially or for general use:

- admittedly
- assuredly
- certainly
- granted
- no doubt
- nobody denies
- obviously
- of course
- to be sure
- true
- undoubtedly
- unquestionably
- generally speaking
- in general
- at this level
- in this situation

For the final points of a paragraph or essay:

- finally
- lastly

Transitional chains, to use in separating sections of a paragraph which is arranged chronologically:

- first... second... third...
- generally... furthermore... finally
- in the first place... also... lastly
- in the first place... pursuing this further... finally
- to be sure... additionally... lastly
- in the first place... just in the same way... finally
- basically... similarly... as well

To signal conclusion:

- therefore
- this
- hence
- in final analysis
- in conclusion
- in final consideration
- indeed

To restate a point within a paragraph in another way or in a more exacting way:

- in other words
- point in fact
- specifically

Sequence or time

- after
- afterwards
- as soon as
- at first
- at last
- before
- before long
- finally
- first... second... third
- in the first place
- in the meantime
- later
- meanwhile
- next
- soon
- then
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Transition Word or Phrase</th>
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<tr>
<td>To add</td>
<td>and, again, and then, besides, equally important, finally, further, furthermore, nor, too, next, lastly, what's more, moreover, in addition, first (second, etc.)</td>
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<td>To compare</td>
<td>whereas, but, yet, on the other hand, however, nevertheless, on the contrary, by comparison, where, compared to, although, conversely, meanwhile, in contrast, although this may be true</td>
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<tr>
<td>To prove</td>
<td>because, for, since, for the same reason, obviously, evidently, furthermore, moreover, besides, indeed, in fact, in addition, in any case, that is</td>
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<td>To show time or sequence</td>
<td>immediately, thereafter, soon, finally, then, later, previously, formerly, first (second, etc.), next, and then</td>
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<td>To give an example</td>
<td>for example, for instance, in this case, in another case, on this occasion, in this situation, take the case of, to demonstrate, to illustrate, as an illustration</td>
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<tr>
<td>To summarize or conclude</td>
<td>in brief, on the whole, summing up, to conclude, in conclusion, as I have shown, as I have said, hence, therefore, accordingly, thus, as a result, consequently, on the whole</td>
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<tr>
<td>To emphasize</td>
<td>definitely, obviously, in fact, indeed, absolutely, positively, naturally, surprisingly, always, forever, unquestionably, without a doubt, certainly, undeniably</td>
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<td>To repeat</td>
<td>in brief, as I have said, as I have noted, as has been noted</td>
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Transition Practice:

Paragraph 1: Read the following paragraph. Eliminate any ideas that are irrelevant, and then add transitions to make the paragraph flow.

Exercise is really good for one's physical and mental health. It is proven that aerobic exercise is good for the heart, which is very important to overall health. I used to run every day, but now I go to dance classes to get my aerobic exercise. Strength training is important for maintaining muscle mass and improving bone density. Both muscle mass and bone density can decrease as we age, so improving them through strength training is important. My grandmother broke a hip last year because her bones were so fragile. All kinds of exercise have been shown to relieve depression, anxiety, and stress.

Paragraph 2: Read the following paragraph and reorder the ideas so they make logical sense. Then, add transitions to make the paragraph flow.

Hotels and transportation on trips can be expensive if you don’t book them plenty of time in advance. When you go on a trip, you need to think about how much money to allot for things like transportation, food, and hotels. It is important to plan your trips carefully. Planning your trip carefully will allow you to have a more relaxed trip. Another thing to plan for is how much time you want to spend sightseeing and doing different sorts of activities. Even though you may want to do everything, you have to remember that there are only so many hours in the day!