Transitional Words, Phrases and Examples

Using transitional words and phrases help papers to read more smoothly and enables the reader to flow from one point to the next without gaps or thought or disruption.

Transitions enhance the writer’s logical organization and the readers’ understanding through improving the connections between thoughts and main points. These transitions indicate relations, whether within a sentence, between sentences, or paragraphs.

Transitional words and phrases are not needed in every sentence. If fact, overuse can lose the effectiveness of writing, especially when used incorrectly. However, when used correctly when points lead from one to the other, the writer’s main ideas become clear and enhanced.

The following list illustrates categories of relationships between ideas, followed by words and phrases that connect. A few sample sentences are included to show the correct use of some of the transitional words and phrases. Keep in mind that this is not an all inclusive list. Consult other writing sources (such as the LB Brief Handbook) for more examples.

Addition/Continuation
(Main idea: Warning: there are more ideas to come.)

- Additionally
- Again
- Also
- And
- As well as
- Besides
- Equally important
- Finally
- For
- For example
- For instance
- Further
- Furthermore
- In addition
- In fact
- In the same way
- Indeed
- More over
- More than
- Next
- Second
- Similarly
- Still
- Too
- Yet

Examples of Addition Use

- Margaret is a dedicated mother; **in addition**, she is a talented professor.
- **In addition** to being a dedicated mother, Margaret is **similarly** a talented professor.
- **Besides** being a dedicated mother, Margaret is **also** a talented professor.
- Margaret is a dedicated mother, **and** she is a talented professor.
- **Moreover**, Margaret raises chickens and ducks; **furthermore**, she breeds exotic birds.
- **Still**, Margaret believes her three children are **equally important** in relation to one another.

Cause/Effect/Purpose/Condition
(Main idea: Condition or modification is developing.)

- Accordingly
- As a result
- Because
- But
Consequently
In consequence
So
Therefore
Until

For
In order that
So that
Thus
Without

From
Initially
Subsequently
To
Yet

Hence
Of
That
Ultimately

If
Resulting from
Then

Examples of Cause/Effect/Purpose/Condition Use:

- **Unless** the bald tires are changed, the vehicle is unsafe to drive.
- **Until** the children behave, they will not be allowed to watch television.
- Drivers who fail to decrease their speed in areas where roads are being repaired will **subsequently** be stopped by the police who will **thus** give them traffic tickets.
- **Accordingly**, drivers may have to pay heavy fines **if** they do not contest the infraction.
- **As a result**, they will accumulate points on their driving records. **Ultimately**, accumulation of too many points can cost them their licenses.
- Sherry neglected to wear her seatbelt; **as a result**, she was severely injured in a traffic accident.
- Sometimes people do not obey traffic laws; **consequently**, they are ticketed and face legal fines.

**Comparison**
(Main idea: *We will now show how idea/thing B is the same as idea/thing A.*)

- Again
- Also
- Analogous to
- And
- As well as
- Equally important
- Even/evenly
- In the same way
- Like
- Likewise
- Much as
- Same as
- Similarly
- Still
- Too
- While
- Yet

Examples of Comparison Use

- To prepare for a job interview, Taiesha ironed her suit; **likewise**, Claude polished his shoes.
- Leo wants to earn a promotion **as well as** continue his studies at the local university.
- Failing to study for comprehensive exams is **analogous to** neglecting to prepare for renewing medical licensures.
- The students were late to class; **similarly**, the professors were ill prepared to teach.
- The amount of coffee in the cup was **as much as** the mixture of milk and sugar.

**Contrast**
(Main idea: *We will now show how idea/thing B is different from idea/thing A.*)

- And yet
- Although
- At the same time
- Best
- Better
- But
- But at the same time
- Conversely
- Despite
- Different from
- Either
- Even though
- However
- Half/half of
Examples of Contrast Use

- Annette wanted to go to the movies, **but** she has to babysit her siblings.
- Sharon desires to attend college; **however**, she hasn’t been accepted into a university.
- **Even though** Barry chooses to drive an expensive car, he cannot afford the monthly payments.
- The results of the test proved positive; **whereas**, the samples were **different from** their original sources.
- **Nevertheless**, the disease process is **opposite from** the researched material.
- **Instead**, doubt exists of its validity **rather than** confirms it.
- **On the other hand**, the samples needed to come from the same source **or else** the results will not be the same.

Concession

(Main idea: After weighing your ideas with those of someone else's or other resources, especially in a persuasive argument, you or the other person/resource may be right.)

- **Granted**, while the idea of forcing all citizens to have health insurance ideally protects them from paying high out-of-pocket costs, not everyone can afford to buy insurance.
- **Naturally**, people want to be able to go to the doctor whenever they are sick, but **of course**, they choose not to go when they cannot afford the cost.

Emphasis

(Main idea: This is important.)

- A central issue/idea
- A distinctive quality
- A significant factor
- Certainly
- Especially valuable
- More than anything else
- Pay particular attention to
- The chief outcome
- The most substantial issue

- A key featureissue/ides
- A major development
- A vital force
- Especially important
- Important to note
- Most noteworthy
- Remember that
- The crux of the matter
- The main value

- A distinctive factor
- A major event
- Above all
- Especially relevant
- Indeed
- Most of all
- Should be noted
- The principle item

- A primary concern
- By the way
- In fact
- Of course
- The basic value
Examples of Emphasis Use:

- **A significant factor** for the implementation of rules in the workplace is to establish proper ethics of professionalism and behavior. But **most of all**, rules dictate appropriate action.
- **Certainly**, employees should consider all the reasons for rules of behavior, but **the crux of the matter** still remains that they must obey all of the rules.
- **In fact**, failure to follow the rules can cause employees to lose their jobs, but **the chief outcome** is loss of needed income.
- **Of course**, they **indeed** have the right to question rules that seem to be unfair or damaging to their health and welfare.
- **Above all**, employees have to be respectful of and courteous to each other.

Example/Illustration

(Main idea: Here is what that principle means in reality.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>After all</th>
<th>As an illustration</th>
<th>Even</th>
<th>For example</th>
<th>For instance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indeed</td>
<td>In fact</td>
<td>In short</td>
<td>In the same way as</td>
<td>In other words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is true</td>
<td>Much like</td>
<td>Namely</td>
<td>Of course</td>
<td>Similar to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifically</td>
<td>Such as</td>
<td>That is</td>
<td>Thus</td>
<td>To illustrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples of Example/Illustration Use:

- Consider the idea **in the same way as** one tries to analyze a given situation; **namely**, when a decision on whether to buy a new product or repair the old needs to be reached.
- **Indeed**, when ideas are carefully considered, **much like** the choice between spending additional money on repairing a broken item versus buying brand new, the best option should be obvious.
- **After all**, careless spending will result in a waste of funds. **To illustrate**, failure to compare prices of computers can result in waste of money from buying a store that charges too much.
- **Similar to** buying fake furs, consumers must carefully consider all the products that are available for sale through the internet, **specifically**, items that do not carry familiar brand names.

Order/Sequence

(Main ideas: There is an order to these ideas. When is it happening?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Again</th>
<th>After</th>
<th>After awhile</th>
<th>Afterward</th>
<th>Already</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>As</td>
<td>As if</td>
<td>As long as</td>
<td>As though</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At last</td>
<td>At length</td>
<td>At that time</td>
<td>At the same time</td>
<td>Before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Besides</td>
<td>During</td>
<td>Earlier</td>
<td>Eventually</td>
<td>Finally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Formerly</td>
<td>Further</td>
<td>Furthermore</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In addition</td>
<td>In time</td>
<td>In the past</td>
<td>Last</td>
<td>Lastly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of Order/Sequence Use:

- **First**, finish your research; **then**, write your paper.
- **To start with**, determine what your assignment’s requirement. **After that**, research needed material and take notes.
- **Initially**, some students become anxious **before** they write their papers.
- **First of all**, they need to develop confidence in their writing skills; **subsequently**, they will be better able to complete their assignments.

**Summary/Conclusion**
(Main idea: *This ends the discussion, but it has special importance.*)

All in all  Altogether  As a result  As has been said  Consequently
Finally  From this conclusion  Hence  In brief
In conclusion  In other words  In particular  In short
In simpler terms  In summary  Last of all  On the whole
That is  Therefore  To summarize

Examples of Summary/Conclusion Use:

- **Finally**, the end result of this study is to show that use of other people’s prescription medications is not a wise idea; **hence**, medications should not be shared with others.
- **In short**, people who use medications from other’s prescriptions run the risk of suffering serious side effects, **altogether** with being sued for unintentional malpractice.
- **From this conclusion**, patients should not be administering medications, **in particular**, prescription medications, with other people despite the best of intentions.
- **Last of all**, a person who shares prescription medications is essentially buying them for others; **therefore**, those people are receiving medications for free.