



Sentence-level Transitions

Certain words and phrases signal connections between or within sentences. They make it easier for readers to follow your thought by leading them smoothly from one idea to another. Transitions act like bridges between one idea and another. Usually we place transition signals at the beginning of the second idea:

His students are very computer-literate. *For example*, most of them prefer video projects to papers.
The laws are clearly unfair. *Therefore*, the laws should be changed.
Jobs are scarce in rural areas. *Nevertheless*, we prefer a rural lifestyle.
Embryonic stem cell research is still controversial. *Significantly*, adult stem cells are proving very useful.

Addition

Addition transitions are for adding one idea to another. Here are some common ones.

and	She like both sushi <i>and</i> tacos.
also	She <i>also</i> likes Pepsi.
besides	She cooks well <i>besides</i> .
further/furthermore	<i>Furthermore</i> , she draws and paints.
in addition	<i>In addition</i> , she is a dancer.
moreover	<i>Moreover</i> , she loves to travel.
too	Traveling is fun but tiring, <i>too</i> .
first	<i>First</i> , you have to do all the packing.
next	<i>Next</i> , you don't get much rest.
last	<i>Last</i> , you come home with jet lag.

Exemplification

Exemplification transitions signal examples and illustrations.

for example	<i>For example</i> , they prefer video projects to papers.
for instance	They prefer video projects to papers, <i>for instance</i> .
to illustrate	<i>To illustrate</i> , all of them turned in video projects.
in fact	<i>In fact</i> , every one of them turned in a video project.
specifically	<i>Specifically</i> , not one of them chose to write a research paper.

Showing logical connections

These transitions signal logical connections between ideas, including cause and effect.

if	<i>If</i> you read the news, you will be better informed.
since	<i>Since</i> you read the news, you understand more.
because	You understand more <i>because</i> you read the news.
so	You read the news, <i>so</i> you are better informed.
therefore	<i>Therefore</i> , you will develop better judgment.
consequently	<i>Consequently</i> , you will develop better judgment.
thus	<i>Thus</i> , you will understand events better.
as a result	You will understand events better <i>as a result</i> .
for this reason	<i>For this reason</i> , people who vote should read the news.

Showing relative importance

Transitions can signal which ideas you judge to be more important than others.

significantly	<i>Significantly</i> , adult stem cells can now be reprogrammed.
even more	<i>Even more</i> , adult stem cells inspire less controversy.
more important	<i>More important</i> , adult stem cells inspire less controversy.
most important	<i>Most important</i> , they have produced many useful therapies.
worse	<i>Worse</i> , research into adult stem cells is not well funded.
worst of all	<i>Worst of all</i> , the research is not well funded.

Comparison

Comparison transitions show that you are comparing similar things.

also	Soccer <i>also</i> draws large crowds.
in the same way	<i>In the same way</i> , soccer games draw large crowds.
similarly	<i>Similarly</i> , soccer games draw large crowds.
likewise	<i>Likewise</i> , soccer games draw large crowds.

Contrast

Contrast transitions signal a difference or conflict.

but	They love rural life, <i>but</i> there are few good jobs.
yet	There are few good jobs, <i>yet</i> they still love rural life.
however	There are few good jobs, <i>however</i> .
on the other hand	<i>On the other hand</i> , there are few good jobs.
in contrast	<i>In contrast</i> , there are more higher paid jobs in urban areas.
nevertheless	<i>Nevertheless</i> , they prefer living in the country.
still	They <i>still</i> prefer living in the county.
unfortunately	<i>Unfortunately</i> , there are few jobs.
although	<i>Although</i> jobs are scarce, they still prefer rural living.

Summarizing or concluding

Sum up your own or someone else's point or signal a conclusion using transitions like these.

in other words	<i>In other words</i> , state alcohol laws do not protect the public.
in short	<i>In short</i> , California alcohol laws do not protect the public.
in summary	<i>In summary</i> , state alcohol laws need to be changed.
in conclusion	<i>In conclusion</i> , the state laws need to be changed.
to sum up	<i>To sum up</i> , the alcohol laws needs to be changed.
therefore	Alcohol laws do not protect the public; <i>therefore</i> , they must be changed.
indeed	<i>Indeed</i> , the laws need to be changed.
that is	The laws must be changed; <i>that is</i> , drinking age should be raised.

Showing time

These transitions create signals about time and when things occurred in reference to other events.

after	<i>After</i> the game, let's go to Moxie's.
before	I turned off the lights <i>before</i> I left.
next	<i>Next</i> time, we should eat Chinese food.
during	He got a new car <i>during</i> the summer.
later	<i>Later</i> in August he quit his job.
finally	He <i>finally</i> decided to go back to school.
meanwhile	<i>Meanwhile</i> , his wife is working two jobs.
when	She plans to quit one job <i>when</i> he finishes school
while	He will complete an internship <i>while</i> he is still in school.
immediately	He'll enter graduate school <i>immediately</i> after graduating/
then	First he'll work hard, <i>then</i> he'll succeed.

Showing place or direction

These transitions show where or what direction.

above	<i>Above</i> our heads towered the tall pine trees.
below	We pitched our tent <i>below</i> the cliffs.
close	<i>Close</i> to the tent was a faint animal trail.
to the left	<i>To the left</i> of the tent was a big pile of rocks.
nearby	We could hear a small stream running <i>nearby</i> .
beyond	<i>Beyond</i> the stream was a small grassy meadow.
farther on	<i>Farther on</i> we could see the distant range of mountains.
opposite	<i>Opposite</i> the mountains was a wide, sunny valley.

Contributed by Rosemary McKeever



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