

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. Some frequently used transitions are included in the following list.

These words...	...show this.	For example...
and also besides further/furthermore in addition moreover too first next last	Adding one idea to another	<i>She likes both sushi and tacos. She also likes Pepsi. She cooks well besides. Further, she draws and paints. In addition, she is a dancer. Moreover, she loves to travel. Traveling is fun but tiring, too. First, you have all the packing. Next, you don't get much rest. Last, you have all the unpacking.</i>
for example for instance to illustrate in fact specifically	Giving examples	<i>For example, they like to blog. They like to blog, for instance. To illustrate, all of them blog. They blog every day, in fact. Specifically, they blog late at night.</i>
also in the same way similarly likewise	Comparing similar things	<i>Soccer also draws large crowds. In the same way, soccer draws large crowds. Similarly, soccer is very popular. Likewise, soccer is very popular.</i>
but yet however on the other hand in contrast nevertheless still unfortunately although	Contrasting unlike things	<i>They love country life, but there are few jobs. They love country life, yet there are few jobs. However, there are few jobs. On the other hand, there are few jobs. In contrast, city jobs are plentiful and higher-paid. Nevertheless, they prefer living in the county. They still prefer living in the country. Unfortunately, there are few jobs. Although jobs are scarce, we still prefer living in the country.</i>
in other words in short in summary in conclusion to sum up therefore indeed that is	Summarizing or concluding	<i>In other words, state drinking laws are unfair. In short, California alcohol laws are unfair. In summary, state alcohol laws should be changed. In conclusion, the state laws should be changed. To sum up, the alcohol laws should be changed. Therefore, the laws must be changed. Indeed, the laws must be changed. The laws must be changed; that is, drinking age should be lowered.</i>

after before next during later finally meanwhile when while immediately then	Showing time	<i>After the game, let's go to Moxie's. I turned off the lights before I left. Next time, we should eat Chinese food. He got a new car during the summer. Later in August he quit his job. He finally decided to go back to school. Meanwhile, his wife is working two jobs. She plans to quit one job when he finishes school. He will do an internship while he is still in school. Success won't come immediately. First you work hard, and then you succeed.</i>
above below close to the left nearby beyond farther on opposite	Showing place or direction	<i>Above our heads towered tall pine trees. We pitched our tent below the bluffs. Close to the tent was a faint animal trail. To the left of the tent was a big pile of rocks. We could hear a small stream murmuring nearby. Beyond the stream was a small grassy meadow. Farther on we could see the far range of mountains. Opposite the mountains was a wide, sunny valley.</i>
if since because so therefore consequently thus as a result for this reason	Showing logical connections/cause and effect	<i>If you read the news, you will be better informed. Since you read the news, you understand more. You understand more because of reading the news. You read the news, so you are better informed. Therefore, you will develop better judgment. Consequently, you understand events better. Thus, you understand events better. You understand events better as a result. For this reason, people who vote should read news.</i>
significantly even more more important most important worse worst of all	Showing relative importance	<i>Significantly, adult stem cells show new promise. Even more, they inspire far less controversy. More important, they inspire far less controversy. Most important, they have produced many useful therapies. Worse, the research is not well funded. Worst of all, the research is not well funded.</i>

Transitions act like bridges between one idea and another. The ideas that connect should be right next to each other, so usually we place transition signals at the beginning of the second idea:

First idea	Transition/bridge	Next idea
<i>His students are very computer-literate.</i>	<i>For example,</i>	<i>they blog everyday.</i>
<i>The laws are clearly unfair.</i>	<i>Therefore,</i>	<i>the laws should be changed.</i>
<i>Embryonic stem cell research is controversial.</i>	<i>Significantly,</i>	<i>adult stem cells show promise.</i>
<i>Jobs are scarce in the country.</i>	<i>Nevertheless,</i>	<i>they prefer to live there.</i>

Contributed by Rosemary McKeever



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