

GO WITH THE FLOW: USING TRANSITIONS

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Transitional words and phrases are like bridges or roads in a paper. They change direction or point of view, connect ideas, or link sentences from one to the next.

To Indicate Addition

also	furthermore
as well	in addition
besides	moreover
further	too

To Signal Conflict, Contradiction, Contrast or to Qualify

although	nevertheless	still
but	nonetheless	though
even so/even though	notwithstanding	then again
however	on the contrary	unfortunately
in contrast	on the other hand	while
instead	otherwise	yet/and yet

To Compare

as/as if/as though	in like manner
at the same time	in the same way
concurrently	likewise
in other words	similarly

To Introduce Examples, Repeat Information, or Emphasize a Point

<u>Introducing Examples</u>	<u>Repeating Information</u>	<u>Emphasize a Point</u>
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for example	again	as a matter of fact
for instance	once again	in fact
such as	once more	to be sure

To Show Spatial Order

above	beyond
below	opposite to/adjacent to
in the distance	in front/in back
nearby	to the right/to the left

To Show Numerical Order

first, second, third, etc.	secondly, thirdly, etc
in the first place	to begin with, next, finally

To Show Condition

as long as	provided that
as soon as	unless
in case	when
in order to	

To Show a Shift from Cause to Effect

as a result	hence
because	therefore
consequently	thus

To Show a Shift in Time

a few weeks/days/years ago	before	later
afterward	earlier	meanwhile
all of a sudden	eventually	now
at present	in the past/in the future	nowadays
at that time/by that time	in a few hours/days/years	previously
by then	in the meantime	(insert any number here) years ago

Using transitions in paragraphs

Transitions can also be used to help a reader move from one paragraph to the next. To obtain this flow as you start a new paragraph, do one of the following:

Use a transitional word or phrase:

Incorrect:	Before we moved to this new apartment complex, no one ever complained about how much noise we students made. We have to be very careful to not wake the baby next door.
Correct:	Before we moved to this new apartment complex, no one ever complained about how much noise we students made. Now, <i>however</i> , we have to be very careful to not wake the baby next door.

Start a new paragraph by answering one or more questions raised in the paragraph before.

Incorrect:	The neighborhood had problems. Graffiti shouted on walls everywhere, trash littered the alleys, and vagrants and hobos slept on the sidewalks. We asked residents about the area.
Correct:	The neighborhood had problems. Graffiti shouted on walls everywhere, trash littered the alleys, and vagrants and hobos slept on the sidewalks. Was this a safe place to live? The only way to find out the <i>answer</i> would be to ask the residents about the area.

Start a new paragraph by echoing a key word or recalling a key idea from the paragraph before.

Incorrect:	My computer's word processor helped open up my ability to express everything that was inside me and be heard or read by others. Rewriting can be a real pain. When I write I just pour out my thoughts onto the page, then I go back and edit it.
Correct:	My computer's word processor helped open up my ability to express everything that was inside me and be heard or read by others. Thanks to computers , things like editing are much easier. Rewriting can be a real pain. When I write I just pour out my thoughts onto the page, then I go back and edit it.

Transitive words and phrases obtained from *Writing: A Concise Handbook* by James A.W. Heffernan, *The Basics: A Rhetoric and Handbook* by S. Buscemi, A. Nicolai, & R. Strugala, and *Hodges' Harbrace College Handbook: 12th ed.* by J. Hodges, W. Horner, S. Webb, & R. Miller.

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