

Transition Words

Transition words are used to link words, phrases, or sentences. They make it easier for your reader to understand how thoughts and ideas are connected. Transitions help to achieve coherence in an essay, personal narrative, or research paper. Essentially, they are bridges that carry your reader from one thought to another. Effectively constructing each transition often depends on your ability to utilize words or phrases to indicate the type of relationship you want to convey.

Below is a list of the most common transition words and phrases according to category.

Showing Comparison

likewise, similarly, concurrently, just as, both, in the same way

Showing Contrast

however, but, nevertheless, in contrast to, though, on the other hand, conversely

Adding Ideas

also, furthermore, too, in addition, besides, moreover, additionally

Referring to Sequence/Order

first, second, third

next, then, lastly

Giving Examples

to illustrate, for example, for instance

Indicating Place/Position

above, adjacent, here, there, below, in front, in back, nearby

Emphasizing a Point

in fact, indeed, to be sure, certainly, in other words

Signaling an Effect

therefore, consequently, so, as a result, hence, thus