**TRANSITION WORDS**

**What are transitions and how are they used?**

* transitions are phrases or words used to connect one idea to the next
* transitions are used by the author to help the reader progress from one significant idea to the next
* transitions also show the relationship within a paragraph (or within a sentence) between the main idea and the support the author gives for those ideas
* different transitions do different things....

**Transitions may be "Additive," "Adversative," "Causal," or "Sequential."**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Additive  Transitions**   * [Addition](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1671187) * [Introduction](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1683940) * [Reference](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1688315) * [Similarity](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1690292) * [Identification](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1692438) * [Clarification](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1694494) | **Adversative  Transitions**   * [Conflict](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1696929) * [Emphasis](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1709924) * [Concession](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1724630) * [Dismissal](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1721675) * [Replacement](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1728111) | **Causal (not *casual*) Transitions**   * [Cause/Reason](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1698969) * [Effect/Result](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1719121) * [Purpose](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1730145) * [Consequence](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1732857) | **Sequential Transitions**   * [Numerical](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1701138) * [Continuation](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1715829) * [Conclusion](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1704933) * [Digression](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1681400) * [Resumption](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1679113) * [Summation](https://www.msu.edu/user/jdowell/135/transw.html#anchor1676358) |

**Additive Transitions:  
These show addition, introduction, similarity to other ideas, &c.**

**Addition:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| indeed, | further, | as well (as this), | either (neither), | not only (this) but also (that) as well, |
| also, | moreover, | what is more, | as a matter of fact, | in all honesty, |
| and, | furthermore, | in addition (to this), | besides (this), | to tell the truth, |
| or, | in fact, | actually, | to say nothing of, |  |
| too, | let alone, | much less | additionally, |  |
| nor, | alternatively, | on the other hand, | not to mention (this), |  |

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**Introduction:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| such as, | as, | particularly, | including, | as an illustration, |
| for example, | like, | in particular, | for one thing, | to illustrate |
| for instance, | especially, | notably, | by way of example, |  |

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**Reference:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| speaking about (this), | considering (this), | regarding (this), | with regards to (this), |
| as for (this), | concerning (this), | the fact that | on the subject of (this) |

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**Similarity:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| similarly, | in the same way, | by the same token, | in a like manner, |
| equally | likewise, |  |  |

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**Identification:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| that is (to say), | namely, | specifically, | thus, |

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**Clarification:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| that is (to say), | I mean, | (to) put (it) another way | in other words, |

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**Adversative Transitions:  
These transitions are used to signal conflict, contradiction concession, dismissal, &c.**

**Conflict:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| but, | by way of contrast, | while, | on the other hand, |
| however, | (and) yet, | whereas, | though (final position), |
| in contrast, | when in fact, | conversely, | still |

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**Emphasis:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| even more, | above all, | indeed, | more importantly, | besides |

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**Concession:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| but even so, | nevertheless, | even though, | on the other hand, | admittedly, |
| however, | nonetheless, | despite (this), | notwithstanding (this), | albeit |
| (and) still, | although, | in spite of (this), | regardless (of this), |  |
| (and) yet, | though, | granted (this), | be that as it may, |  |

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**Dismissal:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| either way, | whichever happens, | in either event, | in any case, | at any rate, |
| in either case, | whatever happens, | all the same, | in any event, |  |

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**Replacement:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| (or) at least, | (or) rather, | instead |

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**Causal Transitions:  
These transitions signal cause/effect and reason/result, etc. . .**

**Cause/Reason:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| for the (simple) reason that, | being that, | for, | in view of (the fact), | inasmuch as, |
| because (of the fact), | seeing that, | as, | owing to (the fact), |  |
| due to (the fact that), | in that | since, | forasmuch as, |  |

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**Condition:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| on (the) condition (that), | granted (that), | if, | provided that, | in case, |
| in the event that, | as/so long as, | unless | given that, |  |
| granting (that), | providing that, | even if, | only if, |  |

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**Effect/Result:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| as a result (of this), | consequently, | hence, | for this reason, | thus, |
| because (of this), | in consequence, | so that, | accordingly |  |
| as a consequence, | so much (so) that, | so, | therefore, |  |

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**Purpose:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| for the purpose of, | in the hope that, | for fear that, | so that, |
| with this intention, | to the end that, | in order to, | lest |
| with this in mind, | in order that, | so as to, | so, |

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**Consequence:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| under those circumstances, | then, | in that case, | if not, |
| that being the case, | if so, | otherwise |  |

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**Sequential Transitions:  
These transitions are used to signal a chronological or logical sequence.**

**Numerical:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| in the (first, second, etc.) place, | initially, | to start with, | first of all | thirdly, (&c.) |
| to begin with, | at first, | for a start, | secondly, |  |

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**Continuation:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| subsequently, | previously, | eventually, | next, |
| before (this), | afterwards, | after (this), | then |

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**Conclusion:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| to conclude (with) | as a final point, | eventually, | at last, |
| ~~last but not least~~, | in the end, | finally, | lastly, |

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**Digression:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| to change the topic | incidentally, | by the way, |

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**Resumption:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| to get back to the point, | to resume | anyhow, | anyway, | at any rate, |
| to return to the subject, |  |  |  |  |

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**Summation:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| as was previously stated, | so, | consequently, | in summary, | all in all, |
| ~~to make a long story short~~, | thus, | as I have said, | to sum up, | overall, |
| as has been mentioned, | then, | to summarize, | to be brief, | briefly, |
| given these points, | in all, | on the whole, | therefore, |  |
| as has been noted, | hence, | in conclusion, | in a word, |  |
| to put it briefly, | in sum, | altogether, | in short, |  |