

Transitional Expressions

Transitional expressions are like bridges between parts of your paper. They are cues that help the reader interpret the ideas in a paper. Transitional expressions are words or phrases that help carry a thought from one sentence to another, from one idea to another, or from one paragraph to another. And, finally, transitional devices link sentences and paragraphs together smoothly so that there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas.

There are several types of transitional expressions, and each category leads a reader to make certain connections or assumptions. Some lead the reader forward and imply the building of an idea or thought, while others make the reader compare ideas or draw conclusions from the preceding thoughts.

Here are some common transitional expressions:

To add or show sequence

again	besides	furthermore	now
afterward	equally important	in addition	second
also	finally	in the first place	still
and	first	last	this time
and then	following this	moreover	too
at this point	further	next	

To compare

also	in the same way	likewise	similarly
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To contrast or show exception

although	even though	notwithstanding	sometimes
and yet	for all that	of course	still
but	however	once in a while	though
but at the same time	in contrast	on the contrary	yet
despite	in spite of	on the other hand	
even so	nevertheless	regardless	

To give examples or to intensify

after all	for instance	it is true	to illustrate
always	indeed	of course	truly
an illustration of	in any case	specifically	without a doubt
even	in fact	surprisingly	without reservation
for example	in particular	that is	

To show cause or effect

accordingly	for this purpose	then	to this end
as a result	hence	therefore	with this object
because	otherwise	thereupon	in mind
consequently	since	thus	

To indicate place

above	elsewhere	near, nearby	there
adjacent to	farther on	on the other side	to the east
below	here	opposite to	to the left

To indicate time

after a while	earlier	meanwhile	soon
afterward	finally	now	subsequently
as long as	formerly	presently	then
as soon as	immediately	previously	thereafter
at last	in the meantime	shortly	until
at length	in the past	simultaneously	when
at that time	lately	since	
before	later	so far	

To repeat, summarize, or conclude

all in all	as has been said	in short	therefore
altogether	finally	in simpler terms	to conclude
as has been noted	in brief	in summary	to put it differently
as noted above	in conclusion	on the whole	to summarize
as the evidence shows	in other words in particular	summing up that is	ultimately

To show cause or effect

accordingly	for this purpose	then	to this end
as a result	hence	therefore	with this object in mind
because	otherwise	thereupon	
consequently	since	thus	

Adapted from Fowler, H. Ramsey., and Jane E. Aaron. *The Little, Brown Handbook: Taken from "The Little, Brown Handbook" Tenth Ed.* Pearson Custom Publishing, 2007.