

Transition Words

Transition words show the relationship between ideas, within a sentence or between sentences and paragraphs.

Common transition word categories

Similarity/Addition

Adds information that agrees with, reinforces, or contributes to a previous idea.

<i>likewise</i>	<i>also</i>
<i>furthermore</i>	<i>as well</i>
<i>moreover</i>	<i>similarly</i>
<i>further</i>	<i>in fact</i>
<i>additionally</i>	<i>again</i>
<i>equally important</i>	<i>indeed</i>
<i>in the same way</i>	<i>in addition</i>

Qualification

Adds a condition to the idea; sets limits or boundaries for the idea; considers possible opposition

<i>for the most part</i>	<i>sometimes</i>
<i>generally</i>	<i>granted</i>
<i>often</i>	<i>considering</i>
<i>ordinarily</i>	<i>of course</i>
<i>usually</i>	<i>admittedly</i>
<i>rarely</i>	<i>unfortunately</i>
<i>occasionally</i>	<i>fortunately</i>

Introduction

Brings an idea into the discussion.

<i>firstly</i>	<i>with regard to</i>
<i>to begin</i>	<i>primarily</i>
<i>in the first place</i>	<i>similarly</i>
<i>initially</i>	<i>regarding</i>
<i>as for</i>	<i>concerning</i>
<i>in the case of</i>	<i>when it comes to</i>

Emphasis

Places more importance on the idea, drawing the reader's focus.

<i>notably</i>	<i>in fact</i>
<i>most significantly</i>	<i>specifically</i>
<i>primarily</i>	<i>in particular</i>
<i>particularly</i>	<i>most importantly</i>
<i>above all</i>	<i>essentially</i>
<i>most of all</i>	<i>certainly</i>

Contrast

Establishes an opposition between ideas; often leads to a conclusion or decision between them.

<i>although</i>	<i>despite</i>
<i>conversely</i>	<i>however</i>
<i>even so</i>	<i>instead</i>
<i>even if</i>	<i>though</i>
<i>irrespective</i>	<i>whereas</i>
<i>nevertheless</i>	<i>while</i>
<i>notwithstanding</i>	<i>still</i>
<i>on the contrary</i>	<i>yet</i>
<i>regardless</i>	<i>rather</i>
<i>on the one hand</i>	<i>on the other hand</i>

Sequence and causation

Establishes an order for ideas; shows how one idea follows from another.

<i>first</i>	<i>thus</i>
<i>second</i>	<i>therefore</i>
<i>third</i>	<i>then</i>
<i>consequently</i>	<i>hence</i>
<i>subsequently</i>	<i>next</i>
<i>as a result</i>	<i>before</i>
<i>accordingly</i>	<i>for this reason</i>
<i>since</i>	<i>because</i>

Conclusion

Shows that the discussion of an idea is complete.

<i>finally</i>	<i>to conclude</i>
<i>ultimately</i>	<i>in conclusion</i>
<i>in the end</i>	<i>in summary</i>
<i>in any case</i>	<i>to sum up</i>
<i>therefore</i>	<i>without a doubt</i>
<i>thus</i>	<i>regardless</i>

Exemplification

Introduces an example of a previous idea.

<i>to illustrate</i>	<i>take a look at</i>
<i>for instance</i>	<i>such as</i>
<i>for example</i>	<i>one such</i>
<i>an example would be</i>	<i>to demonstrate</i>
<i>in one such case</i>	<i>in this case</i>

Choosing transition words

- Think about the relationship you want to convey.
 - What is the connection between this sentence and the sentence or paragraph before it?
 - What do you want the reader to understand about the relationship between them?
- Select a category and a word within that category which best conveys that information.
 - If the relationship is too complex to explain with just one word, try using a whole phrase or even a whole sentence.
 - Avoid repetition; use different transition words in the same category if necessary.
- Remember that transition words can change the whole meaning of a sentence.
 - The wrong transition word can make a sentence confusing or even nonsensical.

Placing transition words

There are three options for placing transition words:

- The beginning of a sentence
 - This emphasizes the relationship between the ideas, by making the transition word the focus for the reader.
- The middle of a sentence (after a particular word or idea)
 - Emphasizes the preceding idea or word.
 - Useful when introducing an idea for the first time.
- The end of a sentence.
 - De-emphasizes the relationship and emphasizes the preceding idea.
 - Least common placement for transition words; use carefully.

Example (with transitions):

*When it comes to tech support, there is **often** a script that employees follow to deal with common problems. **First**, they suggest that you turn your device off and **then** turn it back on; **finally**, if the problem is still there, they will actually try to solve it.*

***In fact**, this does **usually** solve the problem, **although** it can be frustrating if you know there's a real issue - **for example**, if you've already tried restarting your device, and it didn't work. **Above all**, try to remember that tech support is **ultimately** just as frustrating for the support staff on the other end of the phone as it is for you!*

Example (with no transitions):

There is a script that tech support employees follow to deal with common problems. They suggest that you turn your device off and turn it back on. If the problem is still there, they will actually try to solve it.

This does solve the problem. It can be frustrating if you know there's a real issue - if you've already tried restarting your device and it didn't work. Try to remember that tech support is just as frustrating for the support staff on the other end of the phone as it is for you!