

Transitional Devices in Essay Writing

Transitional Devices are like bridges connecting one thought to the next. Get in the habit of using transitions when carrying over a thought from one sentence to another, from one idea to another or from one paragraph to another. Using transitions effectively creates a paper that flows smoothly rather than one with abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas.

Depending on the transition used, and there are several types, you can lead your reader forward to build on an idea or thought. Other transitions allow the reader to compare ideas or draw conclusions from preceding thoughts.

Common Transitional Devices to Use:

To Add/Compare:

And, again, and then, besides, equally important, finally, further, furthermore, nor, too, next, moreover, additionally, likewise, in fact, compared to, as,

To Show Exception:

Yet, still, however, nevertheless, in spite of, despite, of course, once in a while, sometimes, in contrast, instead, still

To Emphasize or Conclude:

Definitely, particularly, obviously, in fact, indeed, in any case, absolutely, positively, naturally, always, forever, never, emphatically, unquestionably, undoubtedly, undeniably, without reservation, certainly

To Contrast:

Whereas, but, yet, on the other hand, however, nevertheless, on the contrary, in comparison, where, up against, balanced against, although, conversely, meanwhile, after all, in contrast, although this may be true

To Show Time:

Immediately, thereafter, soon, within hours, finally, then, later, previously, formerly

To Give an Example:

For example, for instance, in this case, on this occasion, in this situation, to illustrate, to demonstrate, in addition, furthermore

To Prove:

Because, for, since, for the same reason, evidently, furthermore, moreover, besides, in fact, in addition, that is, clearly

To Show Sequence:

Next, then, following this, at this time, now, after, afterward, subsequently, finally, consequently, previously, before this, simultaneously, concurrently, thus, therefore, hence, soon

To Summarize or Conclude:

In brief, on the whole, accordingly, thus, as a result, consequently, ultimately, finally, undoubtedly
