TRANSITIONS

Transitions are words and phrases that link sentences and paragraphs to make a piece of work coherent. Transitions clarify relationships between sentences and paragraphs that may not be clear to the reader.

Although the following paragraph is understandable, the addition of a few transitions would make the relationships between the sentences clearer and the paragraph coherent:

Betty goes to The Writing Center every Tuesday and Thursday. Her English grades have improved dramatically. Betty became an English tutor. She visits the Math Lab every Friday. Her math grade has not improved as much. She will continue to get help with her math homework.

Transitions are like signals. They signal the relationships between thoughts, ideas, and concepts.

Betty goes to the Writing Center every Tuesday and Thursday. Consequently, her English grades have improved dramatically. After two months of tutoring, Betty became an English tutor. In addition, she visits the Math Lab every Friday. However, her math grade has not improved as much. Therefore, she will continue to get help with her math homework.

- In addition signals that Betty goes to The Math Lab and The Writing Center.
- Consequently signals the effect of English tutoring on Betty’s grades.
- After signals the time period between the start of Betty’s tutoring sessions and her getting a job as a tutor.
- However signals a contrast between Betty’s improvement in English and math.
- Therefore signals the conclusion that Betty will receive more help in math, which she lacks.

Addition signals: one, first of all, second, the third reason, also, next, another, and, in addition, moreover, furthermore, finally, last of all.
Change of direction signals: but, however, yet, in contrast, although, otherwise, still, on the contrary, on the other hand.
**Purpose** | **Transitional Expressions**
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to add | also, and, and then, as well, besides, beyond that, first (second, third, last), for one thing, furthermore, in addition, moreover, next, what is more

to compare | also, as well, both (neither), in the same way, likewise, similarly

to contrast | although, be that as it may, but, even though, however, in contrast, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand, yet, whereas

to concede (a point) | certainly, granted that, of course, no doubt, to be sure

to emphasize | above all, especially, in fact, in particular, for example

to illustrate | as a case in point, as an illustration, for example, for instance, in particular, one such, yet another

to place | above, beside, below, beyond, farther, here, inside, nearby, next to, on the far side, opposite, outside, to the east (south)

to qualify | perhaps, possibly, potentially, maybe

to give a reason | as, because, for, since

to show a result | and so, because of this, as a consequence, as a result, consequently, for this reason, hence, so, therefore, thus

to summarize | all in all, finally, in brief, in other words, lastly, on the whole, to sum up

to place in time | after a while, afterward, at last, at present, briefly, currently, during, eventually, finally, first (second, and so on), gradually, immediately, in the future, later, meanwhile, next, now, recently, soon, suddenly, then

(Based on Fawcett 58-9)

**Conclusion signals:** therefore, consequently, thus, then, as a result, in summary, to conclude, last of all, finally.

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This handout is based on the following texts:

For further reference, see the following books:

All of the above texts are available in The Writing Center.

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