

Agreement / Addition / Similarity

The transition words like **also, in addition, and, likewise, add information, reinforce ideas, and express agreement** with preceding material.

**in the first place
not only ... but also
as a matter of fact
in like manner
in addition
coupled with
in the same fashion / way
first, second, third
in the light of
not to mention
to say nothing of
equally important
by the same token
again
to
and
also
then
equally
identically
uniquely
like
as
too
moreover
as well as
together with
of course
likewise
comparatively
correspondingly
similarly
furthermore
additionally**

Opposition / Limitation / Contradiction

Transition phrases like **but, rather and or**, express that there is evidence to the **contrary** or point out **alternatives**, and thus introduce a change the line of reasoning (**contrast**).

although this may be true

in contrast
different from
of course ..., but
on the other hand
on the contrary
at the same time
in spite of
even so / though
be that as it may
then again
above all
in reality
after all
but
(and) still
unlike
or
(and) yet
while
albeit
besides
although
instead
whereas
despite
conversely
otherwise
however
rather
nevertheless
regardless
notwithstanding
Cause / Condition / Purpose

These transitional phrases present specific **conditions** or **intentions**.

in the event that
granted (that)
as / so long as
on (the) condition (that)
for the purpose of
with this intention
with this in mind
in the hope that
to the end that
for fear that
in order to
seeing / being that
in view of
If
... then

in contrast
different from
of course ..., but
on the other hand
on the contrary
at the same time
in spite of
even so / though
be that as it may
then again
above all
in reality
after all
but
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unlike
or
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in order to
seeing / being that
in view of
If
... then

unless

when
whenever
since
while

because of
as
since
while
lest
in case
provided that
given that
only / even if
so that
so as to
owing to
inasmuch as
due to

Examples / Support / Emphasis

These transitional devices (like **especially**) are used to introduce examples as **support**, to indicate **importance** or as an **illustration** so that an idea is cued to the reader.

in other words
to put it differently
for one thing
as an illustration
in this case
for this reason
to put it another way
that is to say
with attention to
by all means

important to realize
another key point
first thing to remember
most compelling evidence
must be remembered
point often overlooked
to point out
on the positive / negative side

with this in mind
notably
including
like
to be sure
namely
chiefly
truly
indeed
certainly
surely
markedly

especially
specifically
expressively
surprisingly
frequently
significantly
in fact
in general
in particular
in detail
for example
for instance
to demonstrate
to emphasize
to repeat
to clarify
to explain
to enumerate
such as

Effect / Consequence / Result

Some of these transition words (**thus, then, accordingly, consequently, therefore, henceforth**) are time words that are used to show that **after** a particular time there was a **consequence** or an **effect**.

Note that **for** and **because** are placed before the cause/reason. The other devices are placed before the consequences or effects.

as a result
under those circumstances

with this in mind
notably
including
like
to be sure
namely
chiefly
truly
indeed
certainly
surely
markedly

especially
specifically
expressively
surprisingly
frequently
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as a result
under those circumstances

in that case
for this reason
for
thus
because the
then
hence
consequently
therefore
thereupon
forthwith
accordingly
henceforth

Conclusion / Summary / Restatement

These transition words and phrases **conclude, summarize** and/or **restate** ideas, or a indicate a final **general statement**. Also some words (like **therefore**) from the **Effect / Consequence** category can be used to summarize.

as can be seen
generally speaking
in the final analysis
all things considered
as shown above
in the long run
given these points
as has been noted
in a word
for the most part
after all
in fact
in summary
in conclusion
in short
in brief
in essence
to summarize
on balance
altogether
overall
ordinarily
usually
by and large

to sum up
on the whole
in any event
in either case
all in all

Time / Chronology / Sequence

These transitional words (like **finally**) have the function of limiting, restricting, and defining **time**. They can be used either alone or as part of **adverbial expressions**.

at the present time
from time to time
sooner or later
at the same time
up to the present time
to begin with
in due time
until now
as soon as
in the meantime
in a moment
without delay
in the first place
all of a sudden
at this instant

immediately
quickly
finally
after
later
last
until
since
then
before
hence
since
when
once
about
next
now

formerly

to sum up
on the whole
in any event
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until
since
then
before
hence
since
when
once
about
next
now

formerly

suddenly
shortly
henceforth
whenever
eventually
meanwhile
further
during
first, second
in time
prior to
forthwith
straightaway

instantly
presently
occasionally

Many transition words in the time category (**consequently; first, second, third; further; hence; henceforth; since; then, when; and whenever**) have other uses.

Except for the numbers (**first, second, third**) and **further** they add a meaning of **time** in expressing conditions, qualifications, or reasons.

The numbers are also used to **add information** or **list examples**.

Further is also used to indicate added space as well as added time.

Space / Location / Place

These transition words are often used as part of **adverbial expressions** and have the function to restrict, limit or qualify **space**.

Quite a few of these are also found in the **Time** category and can be used to describe spatial order or spatial reference.

in the middle

to the left/right
in front of
on this side
in the distance
here and there
in the foreground
in the background
in the center of

adjacent to
opposite to
here
there
next
where
from
over
near
above
below
down
up
under

further
beyond
nearby
wherever
around
between
before
alongside
amid
among
beneath
beside
behind
across

Usage of Transition Words in Essays

Transition words and phrases are vital devices for **essays**, papers or other literary compositions. They improve the connections and transitions between sentences and paragraphs. They thus give the text

to the left/right
in front of
on this side
in the distance
here and there
in the foreground
in the background
in the center of

adjacent to
opposite to
here
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Transition words and phrases are vital devices for **essays**, papers or other literary compositions. They improve the connections and transitions between sentences and paragraphs. They thus give the text

a logical organization and structure (see also: a **List of Synonyms**).

All english **transition words** and **phrases** (sometimes also called 'conjunctive adverbs') do the same work as **coordinating conjunctions**: they connect two words, phrases or clauses together and thus the text is easier to read and the coherence is improved.

Usage: transition words are used with a special rule for **punctuation**: a semicolon or a period is used after the first 'sentence', and a comma is almost always used to set off the transition word from the second 'sentence'.

Example 1: People use 43 muscles when they frown; however, they use only 28 muscles when they smile.

Example 2: However, transition words can also be placed at the beginning of a new paragraph or sentence - not only to indicate a step forward in the reasoning, but also to relate the new material to the preceding thoughts.

Use a semicolon to connect sentences, only if the group of words on either side of the semicolon are a complete sentence each (both must have a subject and a verb, and could thus stand alone as a complete thought).