Transitions

Transitional words or phrases show readers how the writer wants them to read, interpret, react to, and evaluate what was written about the subject. Writers can use transitions like bridges to carry the reader from one idea or part of the document to the next. Because they direct the reader’s attention in specific ways, there are several categories of transitions for writers to choose from.

Here are some categories of common transitional devices that writers can use:

To Add:
- again
- besides
- further/furthermore
- too
- in addition
- first (second, etc.)
- nor
- next

To Repeat or To Explain:
- in brief
- in other words
- as I have said
- as I have noted

To Emphasize:
- emphatically
- certainly
- without reservation
- undeniably
- absolutely
- without a doubt
- unquestionably
- surprisingly

To Make a Case:
- moreover
- for the same reason
- in other words
- indeed
- furthermore
- besides
- in any case
- in addition

To Show Cause and Effect:
- therefore
- thus
- consequently
- so, so that
- accordingly
- for this reason
- as a result
- to this end

To Show Exception:
- yet, still
- once in a while
- in spite of
- of course
- however
- sometimes
- despite
- nevertheless

To Give an Example:
- for example
- in this case
- specifically
- such as
- for instance
- in another case
- to illustrate
- in fact

To Compare:
- also
- in the same way
- similarly
- likewise
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>To Contrast:</strong></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>on the contrary</td>
<td>instead</td>
<td>however</td>
<td>conversely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in contrast</td>
<td>but/yet/still</td>
<td>whereas</td>
<td>after all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To Show Time:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>since</td>
<td>as soon as</td>
<td>simultaneously</td>
<td>formerly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>immediately</td>
<td>presently</td>
<td>previously</td>
<td>meanwhile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To Show Sequence:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at this time/point</td>
<td>following this</td>
<td>subsequently</td>
<td>consequently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>now</td>
<td>previously</td>
<td>afterward</td>
<td>simultaneously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To Summarize or Conclude:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as I have shown</td>
<td>in brief</td>
<td>in short</td>
<td>thus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as mentioned earlier</td>
<td>in summary</td>
<td>accordingly</td>
<td>therefore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Purdue University Fort Wayne Writing Center*