



Transitions

Transitions are words and phrases that connect one thought or idea to the previous thought or idea. Generally, we do not consider transitions when we are thinking through a topic. Indeed, transitions are communicative devices writers use to show their readers the logical links between sentences. That is, transitions serve to show our readers precisely how we have developed our thoughts and/or ideas and the connection among them.

For example, read the previous paragraph and ignore the “generally,” “in fact,” and “that is,” and notice how these words and phrases serve to pull the sentences together into a coherent paragraph. The thoughts and ideas that come naturally to you need transitions when you present those thoughts and ideas to a reader.

The following is a list of transitions you can use to help you structure your writing into coherent, flowing paragraphs.

To show Addition/Sequence:		To Signal Contrast:	
Also	Again	However	Nevertheless
In addition	Additionally	Yet	On the contrary
Furthermore	Moreover	Nonetheless	Despite
Next		Even so	On the other hand
First/Second/Third		Rather	In contrast
To Concede/ Qualify:		To Show Comparison:	
Admittedly	Generally	Likewise	Similarly
Granted	Given	Whereas	By the same token
Of course	Regardless	Meanwhile	At the same time
Certainly	Naturally	Just as	In comparison
To Link Cause/Effect:		To Clarify:	
As a result	Accordingly	That is	In other words
Therefore	Consequently	Again	Concisely
Thus	Hence	In essence	In short
To Focus:		To Add Emphasis:	
In particular	Specifically	Indeed	In fact
For example	For instance	Overall	After all

*All information on this handout came from 6th ed. The Holt Handbook and/or the 4th ed. Brief Handbook. If you distribute this handout, please note that it came from the University of South Carolina Aiken Writing Room. For more information, please see the 4th ed. Brief Holt Handbook chapter 3, pages 65 to 67. You can also visit <http://kirsznermandell.wadsworth.com> for additional help.