

Transition Words

Transitions are **connecting words** or **phrases** that strengthen the internal cohesion of your writing. Transition words tell the reader how one idea relates to another. Using them appropriately makes your argument more convincing because the reader is able to understand the flow between and within paragraphs, including the relationship between different ideas, evidence, and analysis.

Sample transition words and phrases

<p>ADDITION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additionally • again • also • another • as well as • besides • coupled with • further • furthermore • equally important • in addition • likewise • moreover 	<p>COMPARISON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as well as • comparatively • conversely • correspondingly • coupled with • in the same way • likewise • moreover • on the one hand • similar • similar to • similarly • together with • whereas • while
<p>EMPHASIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • above all • especially • in fact • in particular • indeed • particularly 	<p>SEQUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after • at that time • before • concurrently • finally • followed by • first, second, third, etc. • initially • next • previously • subsequently • then

<p>EXTENSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after all • all things considered • at the same time • clearly • in brief • in essence • in fact • in other words • in short • indeed • it seems • namely • naturally • of course • on the whole • that is • that is to say • to be sure • to put it differently 	<p>EXAMPLE/ILLUSTRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as an example • as an illustration • chiefly • for example • for instance • illustrated by • in particular • in the/this case • including • markedly • namely • notably • on this occasion • specifically • such as • to demonstrate • to illustrate
<p>CAUSE/EFFECT/RESULT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accordingly • after • as consequence • as a result • at that time • before • concurrently • consequently • finally • followed by • for this purpose • for this reason • hence • initially • next • otherwise • previously • so then • subsequently • then • therefore • thus 	<p>CONTRAST/EXCEPTION/CONCESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a different view is • admittedly • albeit • alternatively • although • and (yet) • conversely • despite/in spite of (+ noun) • differing from • even so • even though • granted • however • in contrast • instead • it could also be said that • nevertheless • notwithstanding (+ noun) • nonetheless • on the contrary • on (the) one hand • on the other hand • otherwise

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rather • regardless of (+ noun) • still • unlike • whereas
<p>SUMMARY/CONCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after all • as a result • briefly • by and large • consequently • finally • hence • in any case • in any event • in brief • in conclusion • in short • in other words • in summary • on the whole • overall • therefore • thus • to conclude • to sum up • to summarize • ultimately 	<p>TIME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after • afterward • at length • at that/this point • at that/this time • at present • at the same time • before • currently • during • earlier • finally • formerly • immediately • in the future • in the meantime • in the past • initially • later • meanwhile • now • presently • previously • prior to • recently • shortly • simultaneously • soon • subsequently • then • thereafter

Sample paragraph with transitions

Pay attention to how the following transitions were used in the paragraph below: while, currently, in fact, however, and ultimately. Without transitions, the ideas would not be as easily connected.

While qualitative data is helpful in gauging graduate student responses to Boot Camp, it is also crucial that we undertake data-driven analysis to support the value of the four-day writing event. **Currently**, quantitative measures of satisfaction of Dissertation Boot Camp participants are tracked in two ways: through a formal survey posted through SurveyMonkey and an informal survey that is handwritten at the end of the Camp. **In fact**, to ensure reliable data for analysis, the SurveyMonkey questionnaire is filled out by students at three different times: before Camp, on the first day of Camp, and 30 days after Camp. The decision to send the survey at three different times was made in order to ensure that attitudes prior to Camp matched attitudes on the first day, and to then compare that to results after Camp. **However**, the current survey questions are somewhat informal, and none have been psychometrically tested. In order to improve the reliability and usefulness of the collected data, we will need to revise some of our Likert-scale based questions using currently-available test questions from other indices. **Ultimately**, this combination of quantitative and qualitative data will help us to make decisions about the program as it is offered in subsequent semesters.