

Transitional words and phrases are useful tools that help establish relationships between ideas. Including transitions helps readers follow a narrative, understand an idea as it develops throughout an essay, and keep up with the logic of an argument. The chart below contains some examples.

**Addition**

again  
also  
and  
and then  
besides  
equally  
finally  
first/second/third  
further  
furthermore  
important  
in addition  
moreover  
next  
similarly  
too  
what's more

**Comparing**

also  
at the same time  
in the same way  
likewise  
similarly

**Giving Examples**

for example  
for instance  
in fact  
namely  
specifically  
that is  
to illustrate

**Contrasting**

although  
but  
conversely  
even though  
however  
in contrast  
instead  
nonetheless  
on the contrary  
on the other hand  
rather  
still  
though  
whereas  
yet

**Summarizing**

finally  
for these reasons  
in brief  
in conclusion  
in general  
in other words  
in summary  
on the whole  
therefore  
thus  
to conclude  
to sum up

**Pointing to cause and effect, proof, results, or conclusions**

accordingly  
as a result  
because of this  
hence  
consequently  
for this reason  
if  
thus  
since  
so  
then  
therefore

**Showing place or direction**

above  
behind  
below  
beyond  
close  
farther on  
in the distance  
inside  
left  
nearby  
next to  
opposite  
over  
right  
underneath

**Emphasizing**

above all  
add to this  
even more  
in any case  
in any event  
in fact  
in other words  
indeed  
that is

**Showing time**

after  
afterward  
as  
at last  
at the same time  
before  
during  
finally  
immediately  
in the meantime  
in the past  
later  
meanwhile  
next  
now  
presently  
since then  
soon  
temporarily  
then  
when  
while

**Ending**

after all  
finally  
for these reasons  
in sum

*Where do transitional words and phrases belong?*

**Between paragraphs**

**Example:**

... Students who take clear, detailed notes are likely to retain information from class and succeed on assessments. Although note taking can help prepare students for exams, some people struggle to take notes in traditional ways and may work better with a laptop, recording technology, or other tools instead of a typical notebook.

**Connecting sentences in a paragraph**

**Example:**

Doing the readings for class is required. In addition, taking notes on the readings will make students better able to participate in class discussions and keep up with the lecture.

**Within a sentence**

**Example:**

Taking good notes requires practice and patience, but the work put in is worthwhile.

**Exercises**

**Fill in the Blank**

Use words from the different sections on the front of the sheet. There may be more than one correct way to fill in each blank.

1. Some students use pens and paper to take notes \_\_\_\_\_ some students use laptops.
2. Good notes can be strong study tools and \_\_\_\_\_ students who take notes well often make better grades.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ note-taking skills can be a great asset in college.
4. Students often find that their grades improve when they take notes \_\_\_\_\_ a grade of B can become an A once you have notes to study from.

**In Your Essay**

Take a look in at an assignment you are working and find places where a transitional word or phrase might improve your writing. A good way to tell if you might need to add a transitional word of phrase is to read your work aloud. If an idea seems disjointed or if a shift in a description or idea is confusing, you might want to add a transitional word or phrase. Think about what the relationship is between disconnected sentences. What kind of connection could bridge the gap? Use the space below to practice in your own writing.

---

---

---