

Any piece of writing builds a central thesis or conveys a specific idea to readers. Writers achieve this goal through the presentation of several ideas that are organized in a way to guide readers towards an intentional conclusion. For readers to reach this conclusion, though, they must be able to comprehend each individual point, following the logical progression of thought. Transitional words and phrases allow writers to connect thoughts, presenting a sense of unification that is easily navigated and understood by readers.

Some examples of transitional words and phrases include:

When adding to your point:

- In addition, furthermore, moreover

When offering an example:

- For example, for instance, in other words, as an illustration

When indicating a comparison:

- Similarly, likewise, comparatively, synonymously, correspondingly

When indicating a contrast:

- However, but, on the other hand, nevertheless, although, conversely, despite

When discussing order:

- First, second, at the same time, later, finally

When indicating cause & effect:

- Due to, as a result, therefore, hence, consequently, because, in view of

When referencing what has already been discussed:

- In short, as has been said, on the whole
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While using transitional words and phrases is important, these do not contribute to the content of the paper but, rather, should be used simply to guide the reader from one thought to the next.