

# TRANSITIONS IN WRITING AND SPEAKING

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Transitions are **verbal bridges** that move readers and listeners from one idea to the next. Specifically, a transition is a word or group of words that express the relationship between your ideas as you move from point to point within a paper or speech. Transitions may come at the start of sections, paragraphs, and sentences. Wherever they appear, they help others to follow what you are saying and to keep track of what you have said.

## *Effective transitions...*

- **Summarize the preceding points.** For example, "Up to this point, I have argued for three new directions in the treatment of diabetes."
- **Preview the coming point/s.** For example, "Unfortunately, using pesticides in such vast quantities harms the environment on multiple levels."
- **Establish the logical, temporal, spatial or evaluative relationship between the preceding idea and the one/s that follow.** For example, "Although some people would argue that history is boring, it helps us understand the present in at least two important ways." Another example, "None of us would knowingly use dangerous lifting techniques to sabotage the benefits of weightlifting, but that's just what many people do every day. There are three dangerous..."

To be effective with transitions, it's best to use a variety of them and to choose transitions that accurately capture the relationship between or among your points.

## *Transitions that link similar ideas*

again	for example	likewise	furthermore	thus
also	for instance	moreover	therefore	consequently
and	to illustrate	of course	as a result	accordingly
another	in addition	similarly	more importantly	too
besides	in a like manner	not surprisingly		

## *Transitions that link dissimilar or contradictory ideas*

although	in spite of	on the one hand	nevertheless	yet
conversely	instead	on the other hand	however	but
provided that	even if	on the contrary	otherwise	still

## *Transitions frequently used to begin paragraphs or sentences*

curiously enough	in essence	indeed	in contrast to
in keeping with	withal	allowing for	it is said that
in this case	in application of	it may be remarked	an apt example
so much for	here the situation is	associated with	by and large
truly	in addition to	even before this	as a corollary
it still remains that	yet it is apparent that	on the positive side	coupled with
with respect to	as the years pass	it is possible that	in the past
in one sense	to be sure	if space permitted	at this point
on the basis of	in all this	still worse is	there can be no doubt
on arriving that	it is now accepted	in reviewing	as already cited