



Transitions in Writing

Why do we use them?

Without transitions, it is difficult for a reader to follow a writer's thought processes and anticipate how each newly-read sentence or paragraph is meant to connect to the body of the work as a whole. Therefore, we use transitions when writing to cue the reader to the relationship between sentences or paragraphs.

Types of Transitions

Connectives are words that link ideas and can be found in either the form of **conjunctions** (words that link clauses) or **adverbial phrases** (words that connect ideas between sentences or paragraphs).

Conjunctions

The following conjunctions are common transitions: *and, or, but, nor, so, yet, after, although, because, if, since, while, and until.*

Adverbial Phrases

Like conjunctions, adverbial phrases connect ideas.

- To add ideas, use *in addition, further, furthermore, also, likewise, similarly, in the same way, etc.*
- To introduce statements that oppose, negate, or limit preceding statements, use *however, but, nevertheless, otherwise, on the contrary, on the other hand, conversely, etc.*
- To introduce an example, use *to illustrate, for instance, for example, consider, case in point, in proof of this point, etc.*
- To indicate a consequence or conclusion, use *this, hence, consequently, therefore, accordingly, as a result, etc.*
- To indicate order, use *to begin with, secondly, the third consideration, finally, etc.*

As well, *this, that, there, those, such and same, personal pronouns (I, you, he, she, and they), and repeated nouns (the boys)* can help remind a reader of previously iterated ideas and thus keep them on the right track.