

Transitional Words and Their Use

Transitional words and phrases are clues in an essay that tell you exactly what is coming ahead. For example, if you see "in conclusion" you can be assured the conclusion to the essay has arrived. Here is a list of transitional words and where you should use them.

To Give Examples:

for example
for instance
as an illustration
specifically
to be specific
as proof
to illustrate
to show
namely

To Add:

also
and
and then
too
plus
in addition
furthermore
moreover
again
on top of that
another
first, firstly
second, secondly
third, thirdly
second of all

To Put In Time

Order:

now
then
before
after
after that
subsequently
afterwards
earlier
later
immediately
chronologically
soon
at last next
before that
meanwhile
gradually
suddenly
finally
previously

To Show Purpose:

for this reason
for this purpose
so that
in order that
this may happen

To Summarize:

in summary
in conclusion
as I have shown
as has been stated
in other words
in brief
to sum up
hence
finally
in short

To Show Cause and Effect:

because
since
so
for this reason
consequently
as a result
therefore
then
accordingly
hence
thus
therefore
as a consequence
for this reason
it follows that

To Contrast:

but
still
however
instead
on the other hand
on the contrary
rather than
yet
rather than
nevertheless
despite
In spite of
even though
in contrast
conversely

To Emphasize:

indeed
in fact
surely
necessarily
certainly
without any doubt
in any event
truly
again
to repeat

To Show

Convictions and Conditions

after all
at least
at the same time
apparently
even so
evidently
certainly
conceivably
conclusively
doubtless
no doubt
perhaps
possibly
presumably
probably
surely
undoubtedly

To Explain or Give Reasons:

actually
admittedly
because
certainly
for example
in fact
indeed
really
of course
since
that is

To Show Concession

admittedly
after all
at any rate
granted
however
in any case
in spite of
it is true that
nevertheless
obviously
of course
still
to be sure

To Compare:

in the same way
in a similar manner
similarly
here again
just like
just as
equally
likewise
by comparison
here again
so too
also