

List of Transition Words

This list of transition words can be used to find the right expression. The transition words and phrases (also called devices) have been assigned only once to a somewhat artificial category, although some words belong in more than one category.

Agreement / Addition / Similarity

The transition words like *also, in addition, and, likewise, add information, reinforce ideas* , and *express agreement* with preceding material.

in the first place

not only ... but also

as a matter of fact

in like manner

in addition

coupled with

in the same fashion / way

first, second, third

in the light of

not to mention

to say nothing of

equally important

by the same token

again

to

and

also

then

equally

identically

uniquely

like

as

too

moreover

as well as

together with

of course

likewise

comparatively

correspondingly

similarly

furthermore

additionally

Opposition / Limitation / Contradiction

Transition words like *but*, *rather* and *or*, express that there is evidence to the **contrary** or point out **alternatives**, and thus introduce a change the line of reasoning (**contrast**).

although this may be true

in contrast

different from

of course ..., but

on the other hand

on the contrary
at the same time
in spite of
even so / though
be that as it may
then again
above all
in reality
after all
but
(and) still
unlike
or
(and) yet
while
albeit
besides
although
instead
whereas
despite
conversely
otherwise
however
rather
nevertheless

regardless

notwithstanding

Examples / Support / Emphasis

These transition words (like *especially*) are used to introduce examples as **support**, to indicate **importance** or as an **illustration** so that an idea is cued to the reader.

in other words

to put it differently

for one thing

as an illustration

in this case

for this reason

to put it another way

that is to say

with attention to

by all means

important to realize

another key point

first thing to remember

most compelling evidence

must be remembered

point often overlooked

to point out

on the positive / negative side

with this in mind

notably

including

like

to be sure

namely

chiefly

truly

indeed

certainly

surely

markedly

especially

specifically

expressively

surprisingly

frequently

significantly

in fact

in general

in particular

in detail

for example

for instance

to demonstrate

to emphasize

to repeat

to clarify

to explain

to enumerate

Cause / Condition / Purpose

These transitional words present specific **conditions** or **intentions**.

in the event that

granted (that)

as / so long as

on (the) condition (that)

for the purpose of

with this intention

with this in mind

in the hope that

to the end that

for fear that

in order to

seeing / being that

in view of

If

... then

unless

when

whenever

since

while

because of

as

since

while

lest

in case

provided that

given that

only / even if

so that

so as to

owing to

inasmuch as

due to

Effect / Consequence / Result

Some of these transition words (*thus, then, accordingly, consequently, therefore, henceforth*) are time words that are used to show that *after* a particular time there was a **consequence** or an **effect**.

Note that *for* and *because* are placed before the cause/reason. The other devices are placed before the consequences or effects.

as a result

under those circumstances

in that case

for this reason

for

thus

because the

then

hence

consequently

therefore

thereupon

forthwith

accordingly

henceforth

Conclusion / Summary / Restatement

These transition words **conclude**, **summarize** and/or **restate** ideas, or a indicate a final **general statement**. Also some words (like **therefore**) from the **Effect / Consequence** category can be used to summarize.

as can be seen

generally speaking

in the final analysis

all things considered

as shown above

in the long run

given these points

as has been noted

in a word

for the most part

after all

in fact

in summary

in conclusion

in short

in brief

in essence

to summarize

on balance

altogether

overall

ordinarily

usually

by and large

to sum up

on the whole

in any event

in either case

all in all

Time / Chronology / Sequence

These transition words (like *finally*) have the function of limiting, restricting, and defining **time**. They can be used either alone or as part of *adverbial expressions*.

at the present time

from time to time

sooner or later

at the same time

up to the present time

to begin with

in due time

until now

as soon as

in the meantime

in a moment

without delay

in the first place

all of a sudden

at this instant

immediately

quickly

finally

after

later

last

until

since

then

before

hence

since

when

once

about

next

now

formerly

suddenly

shortly

henceforth

whenever

eventually

meanwhile

further

during

first, second

in time

prior to

forthwith

straightaway

instantly

presently

occasionally

Many transition words in the time category (*consequently; first, second, third; further; hence; henceforth; since; then, when; and whenever*) have other uses.

Except for the numbers (*first, second, third*) and *further* they add a meaning of **time** in expressing conditions, qualifications, or reasons.

The numbers are also used to **add information** or **list examples**.

Further is also used to indicate added space as well as added time.

Space / Location / Place

These transition words are often used as part of **adverbial expressions** and have the function to restrict, limit or qualify **space**.

Quite a few of these are also found in the **Time** category and can be used to describe spatial order or spatial reference.

in the middle

to the left/right

in front of
on this side
in the distance
here and there
in the foreground
in the background
in the center of

adjacent to
opposite to
here
there
next
where
from
over
near
above
below
down
up
under
further
beyond
nearby
wherever

around

between

before

alongside

amid

among

beneath

beside

behind

across