

Transitions

Transitions are words or phrases that connect ideas and show how they are related. Occurring between two sentences or paragraphs, a transition shows how the sentences or paragraphs are connected, thus making the writing smoother and more logical. A transition creates a point of reference for readers, allowing them to see how the writing is organized and where it is heading.

Following is a list of transitions and their functions.

A List of Transitions

Addition

additionally, again, also, besides, further, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, next, too, what is more

Comparison or contrast

by contrast, by the same token, conversely, however, in contrast, in spite of, instead, in such a manner, likewise, nevertheless, otherwise, on the contrary, on the one hand, on the other hand, rather, similarly, still, yet

Concession

anyway, at any rate, be that as it may, even so, however, in any case, in any event, nevertheless, of course, still

Consequence

accordingly, as a result, consequently, hence, otherwise, so, then, therefore, thus

Diversion

by the way, incidentally

Generalization

as a rule, as usual, for the most part, generally, in general, ordinarily, usually

Illustration

for example, for instance

Place

close, here, near, nearby, there

Restatement

in essence, in other words, namely, that is

Transitions

1. Use commas to separate transitions from the main body of a sentence.
2. If the transition interrupts the flow of a sentence, place commas on both sides of the transitional word or phrase.
3. If a transitional word occurs at the beginning of a sentence and is essential to the meaning of the sentence, do *not* separate it with a comma.

Summary

after all, all in all, briefly, by and large, finally, in any case, in any event, in brief, in conclusion, in short, in summary, on balance, on the whole, ultimately

Time and sequence

after a while, afterward, at first, at last, at the same time, currently, finally, first (second, third, etc.), first of all, for now, for the time being, immediately, instantly, in conclusion, in the first place, in the meantime, in time, in turn, later, meanwhile, next, presently, previously, simultaneously, soon, subsequently, then, to begin with

See CONJUNCTIONS, ORGANIZATION, and PARAGRAPHS.

1. Use commas to separate transitions from the main body of a sentence:

However, uncontrolled R&D efforts that do not design quality into the product, process, or service may be of dubious value.

Consequently, areas of future focus will include software design, packaging enhancements, and marketing efforts in the Pacific Rim.

The regulator poppet is, however, normally held open by the regulating spring.

Transitions interrupt and are generally not part of the main thought of the sentence; therefore, you should separate them from the rest of the sentence. When a transitional word occurs where two complete thoughts are joined,

as in the following sentence, use a semicolon where the two complete thoughts join (usually in front of the transition) and a comma after the transition:

The scope of this study will not permit a review of all technologies; however, we believe our experience in advanced ship design will allow us to maximize the study of those areas with greater operational potential.

See SEMICOLONS and COMMAS.

2. If the transition interrupts the flow of a sentence, place commas on both sides of the transitional word or phrase:

Upon examination, for instance, the clinical monitor considered 10 patients to have significant findings.

The sensor probe, on the other hand, contains thermistor sensing elements.

3. If a transitional word occurs at the beginning of a sentence and is essential to the meaning of the sentence, do *not* separate it with a comma:

However warm air enters the cabin, the conditioned temperature will not rise above the nominal range.

NOTE: Such sentences can be confusing, so you should consider rephrasing the sentence:

Regardless of how warm air enters the cabin, the conditioned temperature will not rise above the nominal range.