

# Using Transitional Words and Phrases

## Creating Connections in the Essay

Organizing your sentences so that they follow a logical sequence is the most important way of ensuring that the logic that is clear within your own mind as a writer is also clear to your readers so that they understand exactly what it is you are trying to say.

There are four other ways of building small bridges between sentences that will increase the flow of ideas:

1. **Repetition:** Simply repeating key words and phrases in your paragraph will help your reader to focus on your main points. To avoid sounding repetitive, though, you should vary your word choice and use synonyms.
2. **Pronouns and Articles:** Because pronouns refer back to nouns that you've already mentioned, using pronouns like '*he*,' '*she*,' '*him*,' '*her*,' '*it*,' '*its*,' '*they*,' '*them*,' and so on can help reduce repetition while connecting sentences. You can also use the articles '*a*,' '*an*,' & '*the*' to refer to something you have mentioned earlier in the same sentence or in the previous sentence.
3. **Parallel Sentences:** Parallel sentences can make your writing seem more coherent because the items in the sentences match the same pattern or order they were introduced in, making it easier for readers to grasp the connections between ideas.
4. **Transitional Words or Expressions:** These words or expressions function to connection ideas. The transitional words and expressions listed below can help you to highlight the logic that connects your sentences:

### To show time sequence

before, to begin, to begin with, at present, earlier, formerly, previously, in the past, until now, after, afterward, following this, then, later, next, in the next moment, soon, afterwards, after a little while, immediately, as soon as, suddenly, now, by now, at this point, while, simultaneously, concurrently, at length, at once, at the same time, at that time, during, briefly, gradually, meanwhile, in the meantime, shortly, sometimes, from time to time, finally, last, subsequently, eventually, ultimately, currently, in the future, at last, finally

### To show spatial relationships

above, below, beside, behind, in front of, in the front, in the foreground, in the back, in the background, at the side, adjacent to, nearby, in the distance, beyond, further, next to, on, on the other side, on the far side, to the east (west, north, south), under, among, around, beyond, here, there, outside, inside, opposite to, over, through, to the right, to the left



To show a cause and effect relationship

since, because, because of this, thus, therefore, hence, as a result, consequently, as a consequence, accordingly, so, due to this, indeed, for this reason, it follows that

To add an idea or example

and, in addition, also, further, furthermore, besides, moreover, for the same reason, too, another, for example, as an example, for instance, in fact, in particular, to illustrate, as an illustration, equally important, next, then, specifically, as a case in point, in general, thus, namely, such as, that is, the following, in essence

To compare ideas

similarly, similar to, likewise, in like manner, just like, in comparison, in the same way, just as, also, too, furthermore, moreover, equally, again, so

To contrast ideas

but, however, instead of, nonetheless, otherwise, still, unlike, while, yet, despite, in spite of, although, nevertheless, on the one hand, on the other hand, whereas, in contrast to, in contrast with, on the contrary, to the contrary, conversely, still, at the same time, both/and, not only/but also, not only/but, either/or, notwithstanding, different from, even though, except for

To add emphasis

in fact, indeed, certainly, undoubtedly, especially, above all, (even) more important, most importantly, equally important, in other words, that is, moreover, furthermore, surely, in particular, chiefly, primarily, unquestionably

To concede a point

granted, certainly, of course, no doubt, surely, naturally, although this may be true, to be sure, admittedly, it is true

To qualify a point

perhaps, probably, for the most part, provided that

To restate a point

in other words, in simpler terms, in effect, to put it another way, again, that is, that is to say, in brief, in short,

To summarize or conclude

last, lastly, finally, therefore, thus, in brief, on the whole, in short, to sum up, in sum, as a result, hence, in summary, overall, all in all, in other words, altogether, consequently

