Transitional expressions can indicate the direction of your thought as you pass from one topic to another. They provide logical and coherent organization allowing the paper to flow from the first supporting point to the last. They also show that you are beginning a new idea or subtopic in your writing.

Like signposts, they inform your reader that one part or stage of the discussion has ended, and they also give a hint of what connection the next section of thought has with the just-completed section. In this way, a transition helps your reader follow the flow of your ideas and identify the relations between separate ideas. The following examples illustrate how a transition placed at the beginning of a new paragraph not only shows a step forward in the thought, but also relates to the new material that preceded it.

On the other hand, going out tonight would reduce my stress level, and then I’d probably study better anyway.

(The transition shows that the new paragraph is to present ideas that contrast with those the preceding paragraph or section of the essay.)

Consequently, I may need to re-take the course.

(The transition shows that the new paragraph is to explain a result of statements previously made.)

In addition to retaking the course, I need to pay back my parents for the tuition.

Finally, the best thing about me is that I love to spend time with my friends.

Furthermore, my study time suffered from the amount of time I dedicated to socializing throughout the year.

Transitional words and phrases may also help you achieve sentence variety, whether you place them at the beginning of a sentence or after the subject of the sentence.
## Time Transitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soon</th>
<th>Immediately</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not long after</td>
<td>Instantly</td>
<td>Whenever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At length</td>
<td>At this instant</td>
<td>Next</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At last</td>
<td>Suddenly</td>
<td>As</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finally</td>
<td>Now</td>
<td>Once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some time ago</td>
<td>Without delay</td>
<td>Since</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later</td>
<td>In the first place</td>
<td>Occasionally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afterwards</td>
<td>Forthwith</td>
<td>Henceforward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presently</td>
<td>Straightaway</td>
<td>Then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From this time on</td>
<td>Quickly</td>
<td>Meanwhile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From time to time after</td>
<td>At this point</td>
<td>Thereupon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before</td>
<td>A few minutes later</td>
<td>In the meantime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Until</td>
<td>Formerly</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At present</td>
<td>Yesterday</td>
<td>In a moment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of a sudden</td>
<td>Later in the day</td>
<td>Shortly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Since then</td>
<td>Whereupon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Additions & Conclusions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>And</th>
<th>Equally important</th>
<th>In the same way</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moreover</td>
<td>Much more interesting</td>
<td>Then, too</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too</td>
<td>Of even greater appeal</td>
<td>Consequently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next</td>
<td>Just as surely</td>
<td>Thus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In fact</td>
<td>At the outset</td>
<td>Again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likewise</td>
<td>As mentioned</td>
<td>For</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a result</td>
<td>More specifically</td>
<td>In as much as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further</td>
<td>Undoubtedly</td>
<td>So that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also</td>
<td>Indeed it is certain</td>
<td>Hence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therefore</td>
<td>In truth</td>
<td>For this reason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accordingly</td>
<td>Last</td>
<td>Under these conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In other words</td>
<td>Over and above</td>
<td>First/second/third/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furthermore</td>
<td>To conclude</td>
<td>In addition to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Besides</td>
<td>Finally</td>
<td>Another</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Contrast & Comparison

- but
- however
- yet
- whereas
- on the contrary
- on the other hand
- still
- notwithstanding
- in contrast to
- nevertheless
- rather
- on the other hand
- although
- though
- as
- as if
- as though
- in spite of
- otherwise
- similarly
- either
- or
- neither
- nor
- quite as evident
- equally important
- much more interesting
- of even greater appeal
- just as surely
- likewise

### Place

- from
- where
- beyond
- over
- in the middle
- around
- here
- there
- near
- in front of
- in the distance
- farther
- here and there
- above
- below
- at the right
- before
- between
- in the foreground
- on this side
- beside
- wherever
- opposite

### Reason, Condition, Purpose, Result

- inevitably
- in as much as
- in order that
- under these conditions
- as a result
- because
- for this purpose
- in this way
- since
- hence
- if
- thus
- provided that
- so that
- for this reason
- therefore
- granted that
- on that account
- admittedly
- notwithstanding
- in case
- unless
- consequently

### Emphasis & Repetition

- for
- for example
- in particular
- for instance
- in other words
- in fact
- in the same way
- that is to say
- certainly
- indeed
- undoubtedly
- as mentioned
- more specifically
- of course
- to be sure
- on that account
- thus
- therefore
- naturally
- obviously
- emphatically
- most important
- in truth

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