



Transitional Devices

Transitional devices are like bridges between parts of your paper. They are cues that help the reader to interpret ideas in the way that you, as a writer, want them to understand. Transitional devices help you carry over a thought from one sentence to another, from one idea to another, or from one paragraph to another with words or phrases. You can use transition within a paragraph or between paragraphs. This allows a paper to flow more smoothly.

Using Transition Words

Transitions may be used at various times within a paragraph or between paragraphs to show the connections between sentences and ideas. You need to select transition words that **have the correct meaning and are appropriate for the tone of your piece.**

To Add

And / And then	Nor	In addition
Again	Too	Further / Furthermore
Besides	Next	What's more / Moreover
Equally important	Lastly	Finally

To Compare or Contrast

Whereas	By comparison	However
But	Compared to	Nevertheless
Yet	Although	Meanwhile
On the contrary	Conversely	In contrast

To Prove

Because	Furthermore	In addition
For	Moreover	In any case
Since	Indeed	Obviously
For the same reason	In fact	Evidently

To Show Exception

Yet	Despite	However
Still	Of course	Nevertheless

To Show Time

Immediately	Then	First, second, etc.
Thereafter	Later	Finally
Soon	Previously	After a few hours
Next	Formerly	And then

To Repeat

In brief	As I have noted	As I have said
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To Emphasize

Definitely
Extremely
Obviously
Indeed

Surprisingly
Eternally
Never
Positively

Emphatically
Unquestionably
Certainly
Absolutely

Repeating Key Words for Transition

In addition to using transition words, **repeating key words and information** can also create effective transitions to create a logic flow between ideas.

Sample 1:

The 1960s brought to American pop music a fusion of radically different geographic and cultural influences. **From the East** came the influence of religion and mysticism, which made popular such instruments as the tabla and the sitar. **From the South** came the Caribbean influence, branching into such forms as reggae and calypso, with their steel drums and marimbas. **Finally, from the West**, particularly Britain and the American Midwest, came folk music, with its simple melodies and melodramatic lyrics, resulting perhaps the most important influence on pop music at the time.

Sample 2:

The first step is to realize that in our society we have permitted the kinds of vulnerability that characterize the victims of **violent** crime and have ignored, where we could, the hostility and alienation that enter into the making of **violent** criminals. No rational person condones **violent** crime, and I have no patience with sentimental attitudes toward **violent** criminals. But it is time that we open our eyes to the conditions that foster **violence** and that ensure the existence of easily recognizable victims. (“A Life for a Life: What That Means Today,” Margaret Mead)

Sometimes, transition words alone aren’t always enough. You can guide your readers through a change in concept using **one or more sentences**.

Sample:

Capital punishment complicates the administration of justice. It leads to lengthy trials and unjustified verdicts, and it places a burden on courts of appeal. It also forces taxpayers to support all those waiting their turn for execution on death row.

However, when a person’s life is at stake, such inconveniences seem trivial. A far more fundamental objection to capital punishment is a constitutional one: the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution bars “cruel and unusual” punishment, and execution is surely both cruel and unusual. There is simply no humane way to kill people. Nor are gas chambers, electric chairs, or lethal injections “usual” causes of death.