



## Writing Centre

### TRANSITION WORDS & PHRASES

**Note:** Most of the following words and phrases are conjunctive adverbs. Coordinating conjunctions are marked (CC) and subordinating conjunctions are marked (SC). For useful rules about use and punctuation with these types of connectors, see the "Sentence Connectors & Transitions" handout!

<p><b>Agreement</b></p> <p><b>Addition</b></p> <p><b>Similarity</b></p> <p>Add information, reinforce ideas, and express agreement with preceding material</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>and (CC)</td> <td>again</td> <td>moreover</td> </tr> <tr> <td>in the first place</td> <td>also</td> <td>as well as</td> </tr> <tr> <td>not only... but also (CC)</td> <td>then</td> <td>together with</td> </tr> <tr> <td>as a matter of fact</td> <td>equally</td> <td>of course</td> </tr> <tr> <td>in like manner</td> <td>identically</td> <td>likewise</td> </tr> <tr> <td>in addition</td> <td>uniquely</td> <td>comparatively</td> </tr> <tr> <td>coupled with</td> <td>like</td> <td>correspondingly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>in the same way</td> <td>as</td> <td>similarly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>in light of</td> <td>too</td> <td>furthermore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>not to mention</td> <td>equally</td> <td>additionally</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>important</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	and (CC)	again	moreover	in the first place	also	as well as	not only... but also (CC)	then	together with	as a matter of fact	equally	of course	in like manner	identically	likewise	in addition	uniquely	comparatively	coupled with	like	correspondingly	in the same way	as	similarly	in light of	too	furthermore	not to mention	equally	additionally		important	
and (CC)	again	moreover																																
in the first place	also	as well as																																
not only... but also (CC)	then	together with																																
as a matter of fact	equally	of course																																
in like manner	identically	likewise																																
in addition	uniquely	comparatively																																
coupled with	like	correspondingly																																
in the same way	as	similarly																																
in light of	too	furthermore																																
not to mention	equally	additionally																																
	important																																	
<p><b>Opposition</b></p> <p><b>Limitation</b></p> <p><b>Contradiction</b></p> <p>Express that there is evidence to the contrary or point out alternatives, and thus introduce a change to the line of reasoning (contrast)</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>but (CC)</td> <td>still</td> <td>instead</td> </tr> <tr> <td>yet (CC)</td> <td>unlike</td> <td>conversely</td> </tr> <tr> <td>while (SC)</td> <td>besides</td> <td>otherwise</td> </tr> <tr> <td>in spite of (SC)</td> <td>at the same time</td> <td>however</td> </tr> <tr> <td>despite (SC)</td> <td>even so</td> <td>rather</td> </tr> <tr> <td>although (SC)</td> <td>then again</td> <td>nevertheless</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(even) though (SC)</td> <td>above all</td> <td>regardless</td> </tr> <tr> <td>whereas (SC)</td> <td>in reality</td> <td>notwithstanding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>although this may be true</td> <td>after all</td> <td>on the contrary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>different from</td> <td>on the other hand</td> <td>on the positive/negative side</td> </tr> <tr> <td>of course..., but (CC)</td> <td>in contrast</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	but (CC)	still	instead	yet (CC)	unlike	conversely	while (SC)	besides	otherwise	in spite of (SC)	at the same time	however	despite (SC)	even so	rather	although (SC)	then again	nevertheless	(even) though (SC)	above all	regardless	whereas (SC)	in reality	notwithstanding	although this may be true	after all	on the contrary	different from	on the other hand	on the positive/negative side	of course..., but (CC)	in contrast	
but (CC)	still	instead																																
yet (CC)	unlike	conversely																																
while (SC)	besides	otherwise																																
in spite of (SC)	at the same time	however																																
despite (SC)	even so	rather																																
although (SC)	then again	nevertheless																																
(even) though (SC)	above all	regardless																																
whereas (SC)	in reality	notwithstanding																																
although this may be true	after all	on the contrary																																
different from	on the other hand	on the positive/negative side																																
of course..., but (CC)	in contrast																																	

<b>Examples</b>	in other words	notably	in fact
<b>Support</b>	to put it differently	including	in general
<b>Emphasis</b>	for one thing	like	in particular
Introduce examples as support, or indicate so that an idea is clear for the reader	as an illustration	to be sure	in detail
	in this case	namely	for example
	for this reason	truly	for instance
	that is to say	indeed	to demonstrate
	by all means	certainly	to emphasize
	another key point	surely	to repeat
	first thing to remember	especially	to clarify
	to enumerate	specifically such as	to explain

<p><b>Condition</b></p> <p><b>Cause</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>Present specific conditions or intentions</p>	<p>for (CC)</p> <p>if (SC)</p> <p>in the event that (SC)</p> <p>in case (SC)</p> <p>even if (SC)</p> <p>whenever (SC)</p> <p>when (SC)</p> <p>as (SC)</p> <p>due to + noun (SC)</p> <p>since (SC)</p> <p>because (SC)</p> <p>because of + noun (SC)</p> <p>so/as long as (SC)</p> <p>in the hope that (SC)</p> <p>to the end that (SC)</p> <p>in order to (SC)</p> <p>in view of + noun (SC)</p> <p>(SC)</p> <p>unless (SC)</p> <p>provided that (SC)</p> <p>given that (SC)</p> <p>so that (SC)</p> <p>so as to + verb (SC)</p> <p>for the purpose of + noun</p> <p>with this intention</p>
<p><b>Effect</b></p> <p><b>Consequence</b></p> <p><b>Result</b></p> <p>Present a result that follows from a previous cause or condition</p>	<p>so (CC)</p> <p>as a result</p> <p>under those circumstances</p> <p>in that case</p> <p>thus</p> <p>then</p> <p>hence</p> <p>for this reason</p> <p>consequently</p> <p>therefore</p> <p>accordingly</p> <p>henceforth*</p> <p>forthwith*</p>
<p>*these words are <i>time</i> words indicating a result from now on.</p>	
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p><b>Restatement</b></p>	<p>as can be seen</p> <p>generally speaking</p> <p>in the final analysis</p> <p>all things considered</p> <p>as shown above</p> <p>in the long run</p> <p>given these points</p> <p>as has been noted</p> <p>after all</p> <p>in fact</p> <p>in summary</p> <p>in conclusion</p> <p>in short</p> <p>in brief</p> <p>in essence</p> <p>to summarize</p> <p>by and large</p> <p>to sum up</p> <p>on the whole</p> <p>in any event</p> <p>in either case</p> <p>all in all</p> <p>on balance</p> <p>altogether</p>

<p>Conclude, summarize and/or restate ideas, or indicate a final general statement</p>	<p>in a word</p>	<p>for the most part</p>	<p>overall</p>
--	------------------	--------------------------	----------------

<p><b>Space</b></p> <p><b>Location</b></p> <p><b>Place</b></p> <p>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</p>	<p>in the middle</p> <p>to the left/right</p> <p>in front of + noun</p> <p>on this side</p> <p>in the distance</p> <p>here and there</p> <p>in the background</p> <p>in the center of + noun</p> <p>adjacent to + noun</p> <p>opposite to + noun</p>	<p>there</p> <p>next</p> <p>where (SC)</p> <p>from + noun</p> <p>over + noun</p> <p>near + noun</p> <p>above + noun</p> <p>below + noun</p> <p>down</p> <p>under + noun</p>	<p>beyond + noun</p> <p>nearby</p> <p>wherever (SC)</p> <p>around + noun</p> <p>between N + N</p> <p>before + noun</p> <p>alongside + noun</p> <p>beneath + noun</p> <p>beside + noun</p> <p>behind + noun</p>
---	--	---	--

<p><b>Time</b></p> <p><b>Chronology</b></p> <p><b>Sequence</b></p> <p>Limit, restrict, and define time</p>	<p>when (SC)</p> <p>once (SC)</p> <p>as soon as (SC)</p> <p>after (SC)</p> <p>after + n.</p> <p>before (SC)</p> <p>before + n.</p> <p>until (SC)</p> <p>until + n.</p> <p>during (SC)</p> <p>during + n.</p>	<p>later</p> <p>last</p> <p>since + n.</p> <p>then</p> <p>hence</p> <p>about</p> <p>next</p> <p>formerly</p> <p>suddenly</p> <p>shortly</p> <p>without delay</p>	<p>eventually</p> <p>meanwhile</p> <p>further</p> <p>first... second</p> <p>in time</p> <p>prior to</p> <p>forthwith</p> <p>straightaway</p> <p>instantly</p> <p>presently</p> <p>occasionally</p>
--	--	--	--

	while (SC)	in the first place	in due time
	whenever (SC)	all of a sudden	until now
	at the present time	at this instant	in the meantime
	from time to time	immediately	in a moment
	sooner or later	finally	to begin with
	at the same time	up to the present time	

Transition words and phrases are vital devices for essays, papers or other literary compositions. They improve the connections and transitions between sentences and paragraphs. They thus give the text a logical organization and structure.

### Placing transition words

There are three options for placing transition words:

#### The beginning of a sentence

- This emphasizes the relationship between the ideas, by making the transition word the focus for the reader.

#### The middle of a sentence (after a particular word or idea)

- Emphasizes the preceding idea or word
- Useful when introducing an idea for the first time

#### The end of a sentence

- De-emphasizes the relationship and emphasizes the preceding idea.
- Least common placement for transition words; use carefully.

### Punctuation

Transition words are used with a special rule for punctuation: a semicolon or a period is used after the first sentence or clause, and a comma is almost always used to set off the transition word from the second sentence or clause.

Example 1: *People use 43 muscles when they frown; however, they use only 28 muscles when they smile.*

Example 2: *However, transition words can also be placed at the beginning of a new paragraph or sentence - not only to indicate a step forward in the reasoning, but also to relate the new material to the preceding thoughts.*

*Adapted from: <https://sass.uottawa.ca/sites/sass.uottawa.ca/files/awhc-transition-words.pdf>*

*Revised C. Shields, July 2012*