

Transitional Words & Phrases

Using transitional words and phrases

- Helps speech sound smooth and well versed, and at the same time allows the listener to move smoothly from one point to the next.
- Transitions enhance logical organization and understandability and improve the connections between thoughts. They indicate relations, whether within a sentence, paragraph, paper or speech.
- This list illustrates categories of "relationships" between ideas, followed by words and phrases that can make the connections:

Types of transitional words with examples

Addition:

And, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, than, too, also, both-and, another, equally important, first, second, etc., again, further, last, finally, not only-but also, as well as, in the second place, next, likewise, similarly, in fact, as a result, consequently, in the same way, for example, for instance, however, thus, therefore, otherwise.

EX: When there is a trusting relationship coupled with positive reinforcement, the partners will be able to overcome difficult situations.

Consequence:

accordingly, as a result, consequently, for this reason, for this purpose, hence, otherwise, so then, subsequently, therefore, thus, thereupon, wherefore

EX: Highway traffic came to a stop as a result of an accident that morning.

Contrast and Comparison:

contrast, by the same token, conversely, instead, likewise, on one hand, on the other hand, on the contrary, rather, similarly, yet, but, however, still, nevertheless, in contrast

EX: The children were very happy. On the other hand, and perhaps more importantly, their parents were very proactive in providing good care.

Direction:

here, there, over there, beyond, nearly, opposite, under, above, to the left, to the right, in the distance

EX: She scanned the horizon for any sign though in the distance she could not see the surprise coming her way.

Diversion:

by the way, incidentally EX: He stumbled upon the nesting pair incidentally found only on this hill.

Emphasis:

above all, chiefly, with attention to, especially, particularly, singularly

EX: The Quakers gathered each month with attention to deciding the business of their meeting.

Exception:

aside from, barring, beside, except, excepting, excluding, exclusive of, other than, outside of, save

EX: Consensus was arrived at by all of the members exclusive of those who could not vote.

Exemplifying:

chiefly, especially, for instance, in particular, markedly, namely, particularly, including, specifically, such as

EX: Some friends and I drove up the beautiful coast chiefly to avoid the heat island of the city.

Generalizing:

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

EX: There were a few very talented artists in the class, but for the most part the students only wanted to avoid the alternative course.

Illustration:

for example, for instance, for one thing, as an illustration, illustrated with, as an example, in this case

EX: The chapter provided complex sequences and examples illustrated with a very simple schematic diagram.

Similarity:

comparatively, coupled with, correspondingly, identically, likewise, similar, moreover, together with

EX: The research was presented in a very dry style though was coupled with examples that made the audience tear up.

Restatement:

in essence, in other words, namely, that is, that is to say, in short, in brief, to put it differently

EX: In their advertising business, saying things directly was not the rule. That is to say, they tried to convey the message subtly though with creativity.

Sequence:

at first, first of all, to begin with, in the first place, at the same time, for now, for the time being, the next step, in time, in turn, later on, meanwhile, next, then, soon, the meantime, later, while, earlier, simultaneously, afterward, in conclusion, with this in mind,

EX: The music had a very retro sound but at the same time incorporated a complex modern rhythm.

Summarizing:

after all, all in all, all things considered, briefly, by and large, in any case, in any event, in brief, in conclusion, on the whole, in short, in summary, in the final analysis, in the long run, on balance, to sum up, to summarize, finally

EX: She didn't seem willing to sell the car this week, but in any case I don't get paid until the end of the month.

Time:

After, afterward, before, then, once, next, last, at last, at length, first, second, etc., at first, formerly, rarely, usually, another, finally, soon, meanwhile, at the same time, for a minute, hour, day, etc., during the morning, day, week, etc., most important, later, ordinarily, to begin with, afterwards, generally, in order to, subsequently, previously, in the meantime, immediately, eventually, concurrently, simultaneously.

EX: After tomorrow I get enjoy my summer, in the meanwhile I will just daydream about my vacation.

Space:

At the left, at the right, in the center, on the side, along the edge, on top, below, beneath, under, around, above, over, straight ahead, at the top, at the bottom, surrounding, opposite, at the rear, at the front, in front of, beside, behind, next to, nearby, in the distance, beyond, in the forefront, in the foreground, within sight, out of sight, across, under, nearer, adjacent, in the background.

EX: To the left you will notice the blister are only minimal, but to the right you see a significant difference.

Details:

Specifically, especially, in particular, to explain, to list, to enumerate, in detail, namely, including.

EX: This specific illustration show the dynamic composition of an atom.

Examples:

For example, for instance, to illustrate, thus, in other words, as an illustration, in particular.

EX: In other words, you should not be jumping on the bed or you will break your head.

Consequence or Result:

So that, with the result that, thus, consequently, hence, accordingly, for this reason, therefore, so, because, since, due to, as a result, in other words, then.

EX: The result of your action can come time have a serious consequence.

Suggestion:

For this purpose, to this end, with this in mind, with this purpose in mind, therefore.

EX: Make sure you register to vote, with this in mind, vote for me as your next president.