

Transitions

Transitions are words and phrases that show the relationships between ideas. They are like signposts that direct travelers. Transitions smooth the way from one idea to another.

There are many ways in which transitions connect ideas and show relationships. The following charts show most of the major types of transitions.

WORDS THAT SHOW ADDITION (INTRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL IDEA)

These transitions tell you that the writer is presenting two or more ideas that continue along the same line of thought. The introduce ideas that add to a thought already mentioned. Here are common addition words:

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-------------|
| and | in addition | besides |
| also | moreover | furthermore |
| another | too | |

WORDS THAT SHOW CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER (SHOW TIME)

These transitions indicate a time relationship. They tell us when something happened in relation to something else. Here are some common time words:

| | | | |
|-------|--------|------------|-------------|
| first | next | as | while |
| then | before | now | during |
| often | after | until | immediately |
| since | soon | previously | frequently |

WORDS THAT SHOW OPPOSITE IDEAS (CONTRAST)

These transitions signal a change in the direction of the writer's thought. They tell us that a new ideas will be different in a significant way from the previous one. Here are some common contrast words:

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| but | despite | on the other hand | though |
| however | instead | nevertheless | whereas |
| yet | still | even though | while |
| although | in spite of (+n.) | in contrast | |

WORDS THAT SHOW EXAMPLE

These transitions indicate that an author will provide one or more examples to develop and clarify a given idea. They tell us that the second idea is an example of the first. Here are some common example words:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| for example | such as |
| for instance | to be specific |
| to illustrate | |