

Transitions

WORDS THAT SHOW CAUSE OR REASON

Cause or reason transitions signal that the author is going to describe results or reasons. They tell us what happened or will happen because something else happened. Here are some common cause or reason words:

thus	as a result	since	<i>wherefore</i>
because	consequently	so	
if ... then	therefore	<i>hence</i>	

WORDS THAT SUMMARIZE OR CONCLUDE

These transitions signal that the author is about to summarize or come to a conclusion. They tell us that the idea that follows sums up what has gone before it. Here are some common summary words:

in summary	to conclude	<i>to summarize</i>
in conclusion	in brief	
in short	to sum up	

WORDS THAT EMPHASIZE OR CLARIFY

These words signal that the author is about to clarify or interpret a certain point. They tell us that the second statement is an expansion of a previous one. Here are some common emphasis and clarification words:

clearly	evidently	in fact	in other words
obviously	certainly	to be sure	truly
of course	undoubtedly	as a matter of fact	

To introduce a choice or alternative

sentence connectors - conjunctive adverbs = otherwise

clause connectors - coordinating conjunctions = or

- subordinating conjunctions = if, unless

To introduce a restatement or explanation

others = ie, that is