

# Transition Words

As a "part of speech" **transition words** are used to link words, phrases or sentences. They help the reader to progress from one idea (expressed by the author) to the next idea. Thus, they help to build up coherent relationships within the text.

## Transitional Words

This structured list of commonly used English **transition words** — approximately 200, can be considered as quasi complete. It can be used (by students and teachers alike) to find the right expression. English transition words are essential, since they not only connect ideas, but also can introduce a certain shift, contrast or opposition, emphasis or agreement, purpose, result or conclusion, etc. in the line of argument.

The transition words and phrases have been assigned only once to somewhat artificial categories, although some words belong to more than one category.

There is some overlapping with prepositions and postpositions, but for the purpose of usage and completeness of this concise guide, I did not differentiate.

## Agreement / Addition / Similarity

The transition words like ***also, in addition, and, likewise***, add information, reinforce ideas, and express agreement with preceding material.

in the first place	then
not only ... but also	equally
as a matter of fact	identically
in like manner	uniquely
in addition	like
coupled with	as
in the same fashion / way	too
first, second, third	moreover
in the light of	as well as
not to mention	together with
to say nothing of	of course
equally important	likewise
by the same token	comparatively
again	correspondingly
to	similarly
and	furthermore
also	additionally

### Opposition / Limitation / Contradiction

Transition phrases like **but**, **rather** and **or**, express that there is evidence to the **contrary** or point out **alternatives**, and thus introduce a change the line of reasoning (**contrast**).

although this may be true	(and) yet
in contrast	while
different from	albeit
of course ..., but	besides
on the other hand	as much as
on the contrary	even though
at the same time	although
in spite of	instead
even so / though	whereas
be that as it may	despite
then again	conversely
above all	otherwise
in reality	however
after all	rather
but	nevertheless
(and) still	nonetheless
unlike	regardless
or	notwithstanding

### Cause / Condition / Purpose

These transitional phrases present specific **conditions** or **intentions**.

in the event that	for the purpose of
granted (that)	with this intention
as / so long as	with this in mind
on (the) condition (that)	in the hope that

to the end that  
for fear that  
in order to  
seeing / being that  
in view of  
If  
... then  
unless  
when  
whenever  
while  
because of  
as

since  
while  
lest  
in case  
provided that  
given that  
only / even if  
so that  
so as to  
owing to  
inasmuch as  
due to

#### Examples / Support / Emphasis

These transitional devices (like *especially*) are used to introduce examples as **support**, to indicate **importance** or as an **illustration** so that an idea is cued to the reader.

in other words  
to put it differently  
for one thing  
as an illustration  
in this case  
for this reason  
to put it another way  
that is to say  
with attention to  
by all means  
important to realize  
another key point  
first thing to remember

most compelling evidence  
must be remembered  
point often overlooked  
to point out  
on the positive side  
on the negative side  
with this in mind  
notably  
including  
like  
to be sure  
namely  
chiefly

truly	particularly
indeed	in fact
certainly	in general
surely	in particular
markedly	in detail
such as	for example
especially	for instance
explicitly	to demonstrate
specifically	to emphasize
expressly	to repeat
surprisingly	to clarify
frequently	to explain
significantly	to enumerate

### Effect / Consequence / Result

Some of these transition words (*thus, then, accordingly, consequently, therefore, henceforth*) are time words that are used to show that *after* a particular time there was a **consequence** or an **effect**.

Note that *for* and *because* are placed before the cause/reason. The other devices are placed before the consequences or effects.

as a result	then
under those circumstances	hence
in that case	consequently
for this reason	therefore
in effect	thereupon
for	forthwith
thus	accordingly
because the	henceforth

### Conclusion / Summary / Restatement

These transition words and phrases **conclude**, **summarize** and / or **restate** ideas, or indicate a final **general statement**. Also some words (like *therefore*) from the **Effect / Consequence** category can be used to summarize.

as can be seen	in essence
generally speaking	to summarize
in the final analysis	on balance
all things considered	altogether
as shown above	overall
in the long run	ordinarily
given these points	usually
as has been noted	by and large
in a word	to sum up
for the most part	on the whole
after all	in any event
in fact	in either case
in summary	all in all
in conclusion	Obviously
in short	Ultimately
in brief	Definitely

### Time / Chronology / Sequence

These transitional words (like *finally*) have the function of limiting, restricting, and defining **time**. They can be used either alone or as part of **adverbial expressions**.

at the present time	in due time
from time to time	as soon as
sooner or later	as long as
at the same time	in the meantime
up to the present time	in a moment
to begin with	without delay

in the first place	now
all of a sudden	formerly
at this instant	suddenly
first, second	shortly
immediately	henceforth
quickly	whenever
finally	eventually
after	meanwhile
later	further
last	during
until	in time
till	prior to
since	forthwith
then	straightaway
before	by the time
hence	whenever
since	until now
when	now that
once	instantly
about	presently
next	occasionally

Many transition words in the time category (*consequently; first, second, third; further; hence; henceforth; since; then, when; and whenever*) have other uses.

Except for the numbers (*first, second, third*) and *further* they add a meaning of **time** in expressing conditions, qualifications, or reasons. The numbers are also used to **add information** or **list examples**. *Further* is also used to indicate added space as well as added time.

### Space / Location / Place

These transition words are often used as part of *adverbial expressions* and have the function to 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.

in the middle	below
to the left/right	down
in front of	up
on this side	under
in the distance	further
here and there	beyond
in the foreground	nearby
in the background	wherever
in the center of	around
adjacent to	between
opposite to	before
here	alongside
there	amid
next	among
where	beneath
from	beside
over	behind
near	across
above	

### Usage of Transition Words in Essays

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.

All English **transition words** and **phrases** (sometimes also called 'conjunctive adverbs') do the same work as **coordinating conjunctions**: they connect two words, phrases or clauses together and thus the text is easier to read and the coherence is improved.

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

#### 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.**

Use a semicolon to connect sentences, only if the group of words on either side of the semicolon is a complete sentence each (both must have a subject and a verb, and could thus stand alone as a complete thought).

Transition Words and Phrases			
Agreement / Addition / Similarity	in the first place	again	moreover
	not only ... but also	to	as well as
	as a matter of fact	and	together with
	in like manner	also	of course
	in addition	then	likewise
	coupled with	equally	comparatively
	in the same fashion / way	identically	correspondingly
	first, second, third	uniquely	similarly
	in the light of	like	furthermore
	not to mention	as	additionally
	to say nothing of	too	
	equally important		
	by the same token		
Conclusion / Summary / Restatement	as can be seen	after all	overall
	generally speaking	in fact	ordinarily
	in the final analysis	in summary	usually
	all things considered	in conclusion	by and large
	as shown above	in short	to sum up
	in the long run	in brief	on the whole
	given these points	in essence	in any event
	as has been noted	to summarize	in either case
	in a word	on balance	all in all
	for the most part	altogether	

Transition Words are also sometimes called (or put in the category of) Connecting Words.

This information is taken from <https://www.smart-words.org/linking-words/transition-words.html>