Transitions Classified by Their Uses

A transitional marker indicates the relationship between two ideas or sentences. Effective writing uses a variety of transitions to vary prose and make it more coherent and accurate.

**Addition/Agreement**
- Again
- Also
- And, and then
- Besides
- Equally important
- Finally
- First
- Further
- Furthermore
- In addition (to)
- Indeed
- In fact
- Next
- Second
- Third
- Last
- Likewise
- Moreover
- Too

**Comparison**
- Likewise
- Similarly

**Concession**
- After all
- Although
- At the same time
- Doubtless
- Even though
- Admittedly
- Naturally
- No doubt
- Of course
- Whereas

**Examples (Expanding your idea)**
- For example
- For instance
- Incidentally
- Indeed
- In fact
- In other words
- In particular
- Likewise
- Similarly
- That is
- To illustrate

**Summary**
- All in all
- Finally
- In brief
- In conclusion
- In other words
- In short
- On the whole
- To conclude
- To summarize
- To sum up

**Cause and Effect**
- Accordingly
- As a result
- Consequently
- Hence
- In short
- Otherwise
- Therefore
- Thus

**Contrast**
- After all
- Although
- But
- For all that
- However
- In contrast
- In spite of
- Nevertheless
- Notwithstanding
- On the contrary
- On the other hand
- Still
- Yet

**Qualifying/Or adding an illustration**
- Frequently
- Occasionally
- If
- In particular
- In general
- Provided
- Specifically
- Especially
- Unless
- Usually
- When

**Time Relationships**
- After a short time
- Afterwards
- As long as
- At last
- At the same time
- At that time
- Before
- Immediately
- In the meantime
- Lately
- Later
- Meanwhile
- Presently
- Shortly
- Since
- Soon
- Temporarily
- Then
- Thereafter
- Until
- When
SAMPLE USES FOR TRANSITIONS:

- Writing is difficult because ideas do not come easily to me. (reason)
- Writing is difficult; therefore, I try to avoid it at every cost. (consequences)
- Writing is difficult; however, with much practice it can become easier. (contrast)
- Writing is difficult. To put it another way, it causes many headaches. (restate)
- Writing is difficult. For example, I have trouble linking ideas together logically. (example)
- Writing is difficult. Likewise, so is chemistry. (similarity)
- Although writing is difficult, it is rewarding when the finished product earns an A. (concession)
- Writing includes brainstorming, revising, editing, producing many drafts, and proofreading. In sum, writing is difficult. (conclusion or summary)
- Writing is difficult, nevertheless, I still enjoy my W131 course. (denied consequences)
- First you revise several drafts; then you produce the final paper. (sequence)
- You shouldn’t give up on writing; instead you should keep trying. (replacement)
- The thesis presents an overview of the essay. Furthermore, it acts as a roadmap for the reader. (addition)

SOME PUNCTUATION HINTS:

- You can form a compound sentence in two ways: (1) with a semicolon, or (2) with a comma and a coordinating conjunction. There are seven coordinating conjunctions: and, but, so, or, nor, yet, for.
- The day was sunny and warm; the birds were chirping happily.
- The day was sunny and warm, and the birds were chirping happily.
- The water in the pool was clear and refreshing, yet no one was swimming in it.
  - Note the various formats for punctuating conjunctive adverbs.
- The thesis was fascinating. However, the argument needed more support.
- The thesis was fascinating; however, the argument needed more support.
- The thesis was fascinating. The argument needed more support, however.
- The thesis was fascinating. The argument, however, needed more support.