

Transitional Words, Phrases and Examples

Using transitional words and phrases help papers to read more smoothly and enables the reader to flow from one point to the next without gaps or thought or disruption.

Transitions enhance the writer’s logical organization and the readers’ understanding through improving the connections between thoughts and main points. These transitions indicate relations, whether within a sentence, between sentences, or paragraphs.

Transitional words and phrases are not needed in every sentence. In fact, overuse can lose the effectiveness of writing, especially when used incorrectly. However, when used correctly when points lead from one to the other, the writer’s main ideas become clear and enhanced.

The following list illustrates categories of relationships between ideas, followed by words and phrases that connect. A few sample sentences are included to show the correct use of some of the transitional words and phrases. Keep in mind that this is not an all inclusive list. Consult other writing sources (such as the *LB Brief Handbook*) for more examples.

Addition/Continuation

(Main idea: *Warning: there are more ideas to come.*)

Additionally	Again	Also	And	As well as
Besides	Equally important	Finally	For	For example
For instance	Further	Furthermore	In addition	In fact
In the same way	Indeed	Moreover	More than	Next
Second	Similarly	Still	Too	Yet

Examples of Addition Use

- Margaret is a dedicated mother; **in addition**, she is a talented professor.
- **In addition** to being a dedicated mother, Margaret is **similarly** a talented professor.
- **Besides** being a dedicated mother, Margaret is **also** a talented professor.
- Margaret is a dedicated mother, **and** she is a talented professor.
- **Moreover**, Margaret raises chickens and ducks; **furthermore**, she breeds exotic birds.
- **Still**, Margaret believes her three children are **equally important** in relation to one another.

Cause/Effect/Purpose/Condition

(Main idea: *Condition or modification is developing.*)

Accordingly	As	As a result	Because	But
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Consequently	For	From	Hence	If
In consequence	In order that	Initially	Of	Resulting from
So	So that	Subsequently	That	Then
Therefore	Thus	To	Ultimately	Unless
Until	Without	Yet		

Examples of Cause/Effect/Purpose/Condition Use:

- **Unless** the bald tires are changed, the vehicle is unsafe to drive.
- **Until** the children behave, they will not be allowed to watch television.
- Drivers who fail to decrease their speed in areas where roads are being repaired will **subsequently** be stopped by the police who will **thus** give them traffic tickets.
- **Accordingly**, drivers may have to pay heavy fines **if** they do not contest the infraction.
- **As a result**, they will accumulate points on their driving records. **Ultimately**, accumulation of too many points can cost them their licenses.
- Sherry neglected to wear her seatbelt; **as a result**, she was severely injured in a traffic accident.
- Sometimes people do not obey traffic laws; **consequently**, they are ticketed and face legal fines.

Comparison

(Main idea: *We will now show how idea/thing B is the same as idea/thing A.*)

Again	Also	Analogous to	And	As well as
Equally important	Even/evenly	In the same way	Like	Likewise
Much as	Same as	Similarly	Still	Too
While	Yet			

Examples of Comparison Use

- To prepare for a job interview, Taiesha ironed her suit; **likewise**, Claude polished his shoes.
- Leo wants to earn a promotion **as well as** continue his studies at the local university.
- Failing to study for comprehensive exams is **analogous to** neglecting to prepare for renewing medical licensures.
- The students were late to class; **similarly**, the professors were ill prepared to teach.
- The amount of coffee in the cup was **as much as** the mixture of milk and sugar.

Contrast

(Main idea: *We will now show how idea/thing B is different from idea/thing A.*)

And yet	Although	At the same time	Best	Better
But	But at the same time		Conversely	Despite
Different from	Either	Even though	However	Half/half of

In contrast	In spite of	Instead	Less than	More often
More than	Most often	Nevertheless	Nonetheless	Nor
Notwithstanding	On the contrary	On the other hand	Opposite from	
Or	Or else	Otherwise	Quite the contrary	
Regardless	Rather	Rather than	Though	Whereas
Yet				

Examples of Contrast Use

- Annette wanted to go to the movies, **but** she has to babysit her siblings.
- Sharon desires to attend college; **however**, she hasn't been accepted into a university.
- **Even though** Barry chooses to drive an expensive car, he cannot afford the monthly payments.
- The results of the test proved positive; **whereas**, the samples were **different from** their original sources.
- **Nevertheless**, the disease process is **opposite from** the researched material.
- **Instead**, doubt exists of its validity **rather than** confirms it.
- **On the other hand**, the samples needed to come from the same source **or else** the results will not be the same.

Concession

(Main idea: *After weighing your ideas with those of someone else's or other resources, especially in a persuasive argument, you or the other person/resource may be right.*)

Granted Naturally Of course

Examples of Concession Use:

- **Granted**, while the idea of forcing all citizens to have health insurance ideally protects them from paying high out-of-pocket costs, not everyone can afford to buy insurance.
- **Naturally**, people want to be able to go to the doctor whenever they are sick, but **of course**. they choose not to go when they cannot afford the cost.

Emphasis

(Main idea: *This is important.*)

A central issue/idea	A key feature/issue/ides	A distinctive factor	
A distinctive quality	A major development	A major event	A primary concern
A significant factor	A vital force	Above all	By the way
Certainly	Especially important	Especially relevant	
Especially valuable	Important to note	Indeed	In fact
More than anything else	Most noteworthy	Most of all	Of course
Pay particular attention to	Remember that	Should be noted	The basic value
The chief outcome	The crux of the matter	The main value	The principle item
The most substantial issue			

Examples of Emphasis Use:

- **A significant factor** for the implementation of rules in the workplace is to establish proper ethics of professionalism and behavior. But **most of all**, rules dictate appropriate action.
- **Certainly**, employees should consider all the reasons for rules of behavior, but **the crux of the matter** still remains that they must obey all of the rules.
- **In fact**, failure to follow the rules can cause employees to lose their jobs, but **the chief outcome** is loss of needed income.
- **Of course**, they **indeed** have the right to question rules that seem to be unfair or damaging to their health and welfare.
- **Above all**, employees have to be respectful of and courteous to each other.

Example/Illustration

(Main idea: *Here is what that principle means in reality.*)

After all	As an illustration	Even	For example	For instance
Indeed	In fact	In short	In the same way as	In other words
It is true	Much like	Namely	Of course	Similar to
Specifically	Such as	That is	Thus	To illustrate
Truly				

Examples of Example/Illustration Use:

- Consider the idea **in the same way as** one tries to analyze a given situation; **namely**, when a decision on whether to buy a new product or repair the old needs to be reached.
- **Indeed**, when ideas are carefully considered, **much like** the choice between spending additional money on repairing a broken item versus buying brand new, the best option should be obvious.
- **After all**, careless spending will result in a waste of funds. **To illustrate**, failure to compare prices of computers can result in waste of money from buying a store that charges too much.
- **Similar to** buying fake furs, consumers must carefully consider all the products that are available for sale through the internet, **specifically**, items that do not carry familiar brand names.

Order/Sequence

(Main ideas: *There is an order to these ideas. When is it happening?*)

Again	After	After awhile	Afterward	Already
Always	As	As if	As long as	As though
At last	At length	At that time	At the same time	Before
Besides	During	Earlier	Eventually	Finally
First	Formerly	Further	Furthermore	Immediately
In addition	In time	In the past	Last	Lastly

Lately	Later	Meanwhile	Moreover	Next
Now	On time	Once	Presently	Second
Secondly	Shortly	Simultaneously	Since	So far
Soon	Still	Subsequently	Suddenly	Then
Thereafter	Too	Until	Until now	When
Whenever	While			

Examples of Order/Sequence Use:

- **First**, finish your research; **then**, write your paper.
- **To start with**, determine what your assignment's requirement. **After that**, research needed material and take notes.
- **Initially**, some students become anxious **before** they write their papers.
- **First of all**, they need to develop confidence in their writing skills; **subsequently**, they will be better able to complete their assignments.

Summary/Conclusion

(Main idea: *This ends the discussion, but it has special importance.*)

All in all	Altogether	As a result	As has been said	Consequently
Finally	From this conclusion	Hence		In brief
In conclusion	In other words	In particular		In short
In simpler terms	In summary	Last of all		On the whole
That is	Therefore	To summarize		

Examples of Summary/Conclusion Use:

- **Finally**, the end result of this study is to show that use of other people's prescription medications is not a wise idea; **hence**, medications should not be shared with others.
- **In short**, people who use medications from other's prescriptions run the risk of suffering serious side effects, **altogether** with being sued for unintentional malpractice.
- **From this conclusion**, patients should not be administering medications, **in particular**, prescription medications, with other people despite the best of intentions.
- **Last of all**, a person who shares prescription medications is essentially buying them for others; **therefore**, those people are receiving medications for free.