

Transitions

Transitions are words and/or phrases that create connections between ideas in sentences and paragraphs. Furthermore, they signal that a writer is shifting between ideas, and establish coherent linkages between and within sentences and paragraphs.

Creating Connections

For this reason, you should choose transitions with care, whether you are linking to previous sentences, such as providing examples to demonstrate a point, or introducing new ideas and showing how they connect to a previous idea.

The following two examples help demonstrate how transitions can improve writing. In example 1, notice how the writing sounds disjointed and abrupt because there are no transitions. On the other hand, example 2 shows how using transitional words and phrases (which are highlighted and italicized) can help guide readers to see the linkages between ideas in sentences.

Example 1 (without transitions):

The Calgary Stampede (the Stampede) is a time-honoured tradition. According to Foran (2008), it has evolved into a “cultural phenomenon” (p. ix), an event that evokes an emotional response. Some critics condemn the Stampede as a money-grabbing opportunity for local businesses and the tourism industry. Others see it as a community attraction that instills pride in citizens and creates a shared sense of history and purpose. The Stampede remains very popular for its diversity of activities: agricultural exhibits, sporting events, opening parade, and entertainment options.

Example 2 (with transitions):

*The Calgary Stampede (the Stampede) is a time-honoured tradition in Calgary. According to Foran (2008), it has **also** evolved into a “cultural phenomenon” (p. ix), that is, an event that evokes an emotional response. **However**, some critics condemn the Stampede as a money-grabbing opportunity for local businesses and the tourism industry, **whereas** others see it as a community event that instills pride in citizens and creates a shared sense of history and purpose. **Moreover**, many Calgarians agree the Stampede remains very popular for its diversity of activities, **such as** agricultural exhibits, sporting events, opening parade, and entertainment options.*

Sentence-Level Transitions

The time when a transition is appropriate varies according to the intended meaning. Transitions and conjunctions, such as *and*, *also*, *besides*, *for instance*, *for example*, *similarly*, *likewise*, *thus*, *as a result*, and *consequently*, can help create continuity, provide more information, link ideas, or give an example that demonstrates your point.

Although public transportation may appear to be an expensive proposition for many students, its use leads to a more environmentally friendly outcome for Calgary and a more economically helpful transportation approach for students. For example, students who use public transportation in their daily activities will save on fuel costs and contribute less pollution to the city in their daily activities.

Common Transitions

To Introduce Additional information:			
additionally	as well as	also	next
as well	furthermore	and	finally
equally important	in addition	similarly	first, second, third
another	moreover	particularly	further

To Provide Examples:			
for example	to demonstrate	specifically	in particular
for instance	to illustrate	frequently	this can be seen
as an example	to explain further	such as	an effective demonstration of this

To Summarize and Conclude:			
in conclusion	thus	consequently	hence
in summary	to sum up	therefore	as a result
finally	to conclude	In brief	accordingly

To Show Time:			
after	during	first	when
afterwards	earlier	last	later
as soon as	eventually	meanwhile	once
before	finally	next	until
soon	sometimes	since	concurrently

To Show Location:			
above	beneath	over	to the right
below	down	in front of	on top of
beside	beyond	further on	throughout
behind	between	near	at the corner of

To Show Linkages Between Ideas:			
accordingly	similarly	if	thus
as a result	consequently	otherwise	for this reason
because	unless	so	hence
therefore	more important	in the same way	additionally

To Clarify:			
in other words	for instance	put another way	to demonstrate

To Show Linkages Between Ideas:			
nevertheless	however	conversely	yet
although	in contrast	nonetheless	on the contrary