

Transition Words by Purpose

Choose your transition based on what you're trying to accomplish

+ Addition

also · additionally · furthermore · moreover · in addition · as well as · not only...but also · along with · equally important · besides · what's more · likewise

Contrast

Academic: however · although · on the other hand · in contrast · conversely · nevertheless · nonetheless · despite · even though · instead

Conjunctions: but · yet · while · whereas

Cause & Effect

Cause: because · since · due to · owing to · for this reason · as · given that

Result: therefore · consequently · as a result · thus · hence · accordingly

Sequence & Time

first · second · third · next · then · finally · lastly · before · after · meanwhile · subsequently · previously · initially · eventually · to begin with

Example

for example · for instance · specifically · such as · to illustrate · in particular · namely · including · especially · as an example · to demonstrate · consider

Comparison

similarly · likewise · in the same way · just as · comparable to · by the same token · equally · correspondingly · along the same lines

Emphasis

indeed · certainly · above all · most importantly · especially · in fact · significantly · notably · undoubtedly · clearly · without a doubt

Conclusion

in conclusion · to summarize · ultimately · in summary · overall · to conclude · in short · all in all · to sum up · given these points · on the whole

Transition Sentence Templates

Use full sentences to bridge between paragraphs—not just single words

The Transition Sentence Formula

Back-Reference + Relationship Word + Forward-Preview

Adding Info	[Previous point] is significant; furthermore , [new point].
Contrasting	These benefits are real; however , they don't address [new focus].
Cause → Effect	Because [previous point], as a result , [effect/new focus].
Counterargument	Critics argue [opposing view]; however , this overlooks [rebuttal].
Example	This becomes clearer with a case. Consider [example].
Shifting Focus	Having established [point], we can now turn to [new aspect].
Most Important	While these matter, the most significant is [key point].
Building	Beyond [previous], another factor deserves attention: [new].

Example in Context

End of paragraph about homework's benefits...

" Homework may reinforce learning ; **however** , its impact on well-being tells a different story ."

...beginning of paragraph about negative effects

Transition Words to Start a Paragraph

Go-to moves for each section of your essay

Introduction Paragraph

Bridge from hook:	This question matters because... · This issue affects... · Behind this statistic lies... · The answer reveals...
Lead to thesis:	The evidence suggests... · A closer look reveals... · Understanding this requires... · What emerges is...

Body Paragraphs

1st Body ¶:	To begin with · First · First and foremost · The first reason · One key factor · Initially
2nd Body ¶:	In addition · Furthermore · Another reason · Moreover · Additionally · Beyond that · Equally important
3rd Body ¶:	Finally · Lastly · Most importantly · Perhaps most significant · The strongest argument · Above all
Counterargument:	Some argue that... · Critics contend... · Opponents believe... · While some claim... · Admittedly...

Conclusion Paragraph

Signal summary:	In conclusion · To summarize · In summary · All in all · To sum up · Given these points
Emphasize:	Ultimately · What matters most is... · The evidence makes clear... · Clearly · Without question
Call to action:	Moving forward... · The question now is... · It's time to... · We must... · The next step is...
Circle back:	Returning to the question... · Remember the opening... · As we saw at the start...

Pro Tip

"Finally" signals sequence (the last point), not conclusion. Use it for your last body paragraph, but use "In conclusion" for your actual conclusion.

Transition Mistakes to Avoid

Common errors that weaken your writing—and how to fix them

✗ Mistake #1: Overusing the Same Transition

✗ "Exercise improves health. **Also**, it reduces stress. **Also**, it improves sleep."

✓ "Exercise improves health. **Additionally**, it reduces stress. **Beyond that**, it improves sleep."

Fix: Vary your transitions. Keep a mental list of alternatives.

✗ Mistake #2: Starting Every Sentence with a Transition

✗ "**First**, dogs need exercise. **Additionally**, they need vet visits. **Furthermore**, nutrition."

✓ "Dogs need daily exercise. They **also** require vet visits. **Perhaps most overlooked**, they need stimulation."

Fix: Use transitions strategically—not robotically in every sentence.

✗ Mistake #3: Using the Wrong Relationship

✗ "The team worked hard. **However**, they won the championship."

✓ "The team worked hard. **As a result**, they won the championship."

Fix: "However" = contrast. Winning after hard work = result. Match the relationship.

⚠ Too Casual for Formal Essays

anyways → regardless · **plus** → additionally · **basically** → just say it · **so** (at start) → therefore

✓ Remember

These aren't "wrong"—they're about **tone and formality**. A personal narrative can be casual; a research paper should be formal.