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A transition is a word, phrase, or even an entire sentence that connects one idea in your paper to another. They are typically used to lead into a paragraph because of their usefulness in bridging ideas. Making good use of transitions is important as it can help your sentences and paragraphs reference one another, while also allowing your reader to follow the logical flow of your argument.

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### Why do we need to use them?

Transitions are essentially the glue that holds your paper together. They serve as cues to the reader that although you may be moving on to a different topic, the new ideas you are presenting are still very much related to your old ideas. Used effectively, transitions can show the audience that all of your individual thoughts are part of a unified whole.

### Types of transitions

- a) **Transitions between sections** – These transitions are entire paragraphs. They are used in longer works to summarize information and prompt the next section.
- b) **Transitions between paragraphs** – Transitions between paragraphs highlight a relationship between two or more paragraphs. They can be at the beginning or end of a paragraph and tend to be a word, phrase, or sentence.
- c) **Transitions between sentences** – Transitions that separate sentences are cues to the reader of what is coming next. Try to use single words or phrases here, as whole sentences should be avoided in this category.

### Example

Below is an example of how adding new words or phrases can make your sentences more cohesive.

**Before:** Scientists believe that a mass extinction may have been behind the disappearance of the dinosaurs. There is evidence which suggests this.

**After:** *Because there is evidence that suggests a mass extinction was behind the disappearance of the dinosaurs, it is a widely accepted scientific theory.*

Notice that adding in just a few key phrases shows the reader the connection we are trying to make and reinforces the main point.

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\*Adapted from: *Purdue Online Writing Lab* <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

## *Transitions, Continued*

### *words that indicate addition*

moreover	and then	in addition
further	likewise	equally important
furthermore	also	in conjunction with
besides	too	over and above
and	again	many (reasons, types)
another	next	first, second, third

### *words that indicate cause, effect, explanation*

therefore	accordingly	if..., then
thus	for this reason	so
cause	because	effect
lead to	consequently	

### *words that indicate similarity*

similarly	just as	in the same way
similar to	alike	comparably

### *words that indicate summary, repetition, emphasis*

to sum up	as has been noted
in other words	on the whole
that is	finally
for these reasons	most important

### *words that indicate difference*

but	nevertheless	in contrast
yet	on the contrary	otherwise
however	although	still
after all	on the other hand	despite
opposite	different from	here/there
differ	even though	instead

### *words that indicate examples*

for example	to illustrate
for instance	specifically
in other words	including
such as	

### *words that indicate place*

here	adjacent	next to
above	beyond	near
below	under	nearby
to	around	close

### *words that indicate time*

first	second	third
last	since	today
previously	at length	at last
meanwhile	afterward	often
after	finally	until
following	when	while

