

Common Transition Words

Additive transition words—Additive transition words introduce new information or examples. They can be used to expand upon, compare with, or clarify the preceding text.

Function/Purpose	Transition words and phrases
Addition	indeed, furthermore, and, also, not only x but also y , besides x , in fact
Introduction	such as, including, for example, for instance, in particular, especially
Reference	considering x , in regard to x , as for x , concerning x
Similarity	similarly, in the same way, equally, likewise
Clarification	that is (to say), namely, specifically, more precisely, in other words

Adversative transition words—Adversative transition words always signal a contrast of some kind. They can be used to introduce information that disagrees or contrasts with the preceding text.

Function/Purpose	Transition words and phrases
Conflict	but, however, although, though, while, (and) yet,
Concession	even so, nevertheless, even though, despite x , (and) still, although, in spite of x , regardless (of x), (and) yet, though,
Dismissal	regardless, in any/either case, at any rate, all the same
Emphasis	above all, indeed, more/most importantly
Replacement	(or) at least, (or) rather, instead, or (perhaps) even, if not

Causal transition words—Causal transition words are used to describe cause and effect. They can be used to express purpose, consequence, and condition.

Function/Purpose	Transition words and phrases
Consequence	therefore, because (of x), as a result (of x), for this reason, due to (the fact that), since, thus, so (that), under the/such circumstances, if so
Condition	(even/only) if/when, provided, in case, in the event that, as long as, unless, if so/not, otherwise
Purpose	to, in order to/that, for the purpose of, in the hope that, so that, so that, to ensure (that)

Sequential transition words—Sequential transition words indicate a sequence, whether it's the order in which events occurred chronologically or the order presented in the text.

Function/Purpose	Transition words and phrases
Enumeration	first, second, third...
Initiation	in the first place, initially, first of all, to begin with, at first
Continuation	previously, eventually, next, before x , afterwards, after x , then
Conclusion	to conclude (with), eventually, at last, last but not least, finally, lastly
Resumption	to return/returning to x , to resume
Summation	in summary, as I have argued, to summarize, briefly, in conclusion,