TRANSITIONS

Transitions help the reader move from sentence to sentence. They serve as a bridge, helping connect what has been read to what is about to be read. These transitions—or bridges—are what make a paragraph coherent.

COMMON TRANSITIONS

TO INDICATE ADDITION
again, also, and, and then, another, as well, besides, both…and, equally important, finally, first, further, furthermore, in addition, last, likewise, plus, moreover, more than that, next not only…but, also, on top of that, second, third, too

I don’t have time to do the dishes; besides, I don’t really want to.

TO EMPHASIZE, REINFORCE, OR EXTEND
indeed, in fact, surely, necessarily, certainly, in any event, truly, again, to repeat, moreover, furthermore

I will write my paper; indeed, I will begin now.

TO INDICATE EXAMPLE
for example, for instance, to illustrate, in fact, specifically

In fact, a dog’s brain is bigger than a cat’s.

TO COMPARE
also, in the same way, similarly, just as, likewise

I like to knit sweaters; I also like to knit scarves.

TO CONTRAST
but, however, on the other hand, in contrast, nevertheless, still, even though, on the contrary, yet, although, after all, true, at the same time, but, despite, for all that, in spite of, notwithstanding, on the other hand

I have my license, but I am not allowed to drive.

TO SUMMARIZE OR CONCLUDE
in other words, in short, in summary, in conclusion, to sum up, that is, therefore

A dog’s brain is bigger than a cat’s; therefore, dogs are smarter.

TO SHOW TIME
after, after a short time, afterwards, as long as, as soon as, at last, at length, at that time, at the same time, before, earlier, gradually, of late, in a few days, in the meantime, thereafter, upon, until, as before, next, during, later, finally, meanwhile, then, when, while, immediately

Immediately after class, Keith and I will go to a movie.

TO SHOW PLACE OR DIRECTION
above, below, beyond, farther on, nearby, opposite, close, to the left

My sister’s house is right here, opposite of my house.

TO INDICATE LOGICAL RELATIONSHIP
if, accordingly, as a result, consequently, hence, in short, otherwise, so, then, therefore, thus, for this reason, since

For this reason, I have decided to resign as president.

TO INDICATE CHOICE OR ALTERNATIVE
or, either…or, neither…nor, whether, whether…or, whether…or not

Either I will turn my unfinished paper in now, or I will turn it in late tomorrow.

TO INDICATE CONCESSION
after all, although, although this may be true, at the same time, even though, I admit, naturally, of course

Although I turned my assignment in on time, I did not start working on it until late last night.

TO SHOW PURPOSE
for this reason, for this purpose, so that this may happen, for the purpose of

I started training early; for this reason, I was able to finish the race.

TO SHOW SPECIAL FEATURES OR EXAMPLES
for example, for instance, incidentally, indeed, in fact, in other words, in particular, specifically, that is, to illustrate

Bring a dish to the potluck; for example, bring salad or dessert.

TO PUT IN SPATIAL ORDER
near, near to, far, far from, in front of, beside, in the rear of, beyond, above, below, to the right, to the left, around, surrounding, on one side, inside, outside, alongside

The aroma of Italian cuisine filled the busy restaurant; nearby, passersby stopped to take in the culinary fragrance.