

JESI, 2009: Transitions

Careful writers use transitional words and expressions to clarify the relationship between two sentences.

Students may find it useful to have a list of common transition while they draft their essays.

Commonly-used Transition

Illustration	Thus, for example, for instance, namely, to illustrate, in other words, in particular, specifically, such as.
Contrast	On the contrary, contrarily, notwithstanding, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, while this may be true.
Addition	And, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, than, too, also, both-and, another, equally important, first, second, etc., again, further, last, finally, not only-but also, as well as, in the second place, next, likewise, similarly, in fact, as a result, consequently, in the same way, for example, for instance, however, thus, therefore, otherwise.
Time	After, afterward, before, then, once, next, last, at last, at length, first, second, etc., at first, formerly, rarely, usually, another, finally, soon, meanwhile, at the same time, for a minute, hour, day, etc., during the morning, day, week, etc., most important, later, ordinarily, to begin with, afterwards, generally, in order to, subsequently, previously, in the meantime, immediately, eventually, concurrently, simultaneously.
Space	At the left, at the right, in the center, on the side, along the edge, on top, below, beneath, under, around, above, over, straight ahead, at the top, at the bottom, surrounding, opposite, at the rear, at the front, in front of, beside, behind, next to, nearby, in the distance, beyond, in the forefront, in the foreground, within sight, out of sight, across, under, nearer, adjacent, in the background.

Concession	Although, at any rate, at least, still, thought, even though, granted that, while it may be true, in spite of, of course.
Similarity Of Comparison	Similarly, likewise, in like fashion, in like manner, analogous to.
Emphasis	Above all, indeed, truly, of course, certainly, surely, in fact, really, in truth, again, besides, also, furthermore, in addition.
Details	Specifically, especially, in particular, to explain, to list, to enumerate, in detail, namely, including.
Examples	For example, for instance, to illustrate, thus, in other words, as an illustration, in particular.
Consequence Or Result	So that, with the result that, thus, consequently, hence, accordingly, for this reason, therefore, so, because, since, due to, as a result, in other words, then.
Summary	Therefore, finally, consequently, thus, in short, in conclusion, in brief, as a result, accordingly.
Suggestion	For this purpose, to this end, with this in mind, with this purpose in mind, therefore.

Take a look at the following for a comprehensive list of transitional expressions and their uses.

<https://www.msu.edu/~jdowell/135/transw.html>

Take a look at the following exercise, from the writing center at the University of North Texas.

(http://www.unt.edu/writinglab/exercises/style_exercises.htm)

Read the following essay regarding the Monroe Doctrine. Then revise the essay, inserting transitions where needed to improve the flow of ideas.

The Monroe Doctrine was stated in an address by President James Monroe in 1823. The ideas stated in that address would greatly alter American foreign policy. President Monroe wanted to advise the European countries that America was an independent country. Many of the ideas in the doctrine came from Secretary of State John Q. Adams. Some Americans, especially those in Congress, felt that Adams had pressured Monroe to deliver this address, perhaps unwillingly.

Monroe and Adams were concerned about European countries' efforts at colonization in the Americas. They felt that America should assert itself as a strong country that would not tolerate such efforts. President Monroe made clear in his doctrine his beliefs regarding the New World and the Old World. He felt that the two should remain separate worlds. In the doctrine, Monroe declared that the Americas were no longer open for European colonization. He expressed his desire that America look after itself while Europe did the same.

Some historians believe that the doctrine was a political ploy by John Q. Adams. Adams was running for President in the upcoming election. The doctrine led America to become a world protector.

Students, especially the weaker students, tend to overuse transitional expressions, as a crutch to support (in their minds) poor content or poor syntax. Help these students by having them edit for excessive use of transitions.