

Useful Phrases for Academic Writing

Stating your opinion

As I see it,

It seems to me that I would also say that

I am convinced that

I am inclined to believe that

There is no doubt in my mind that

One of the drawbacks of is

However, one of the benefits is that

Changing topic

As regards the causes for this,

Concerning the causes for this,

As for the causes,

Presenting arguments

One justification often given for is that.....

Advocates/Proponents would claim that

Those who object to often argue that

Another objection is that

However, it should not be forgotten that

..... are opposed to on the grounds that

From the point of view of

According to

Describing causes

One factor which has led to is

One of the factors which has brought this about is

The problem often stems from

The situation has been exacerbated by

..... has only made the situation worse.

One consequence of is

Proposing steps and measures

As regards the most appropriate response to this situation, one suggestion would be to

The first step to be taken would be to

To alleviate the situation people should

In addition they ought to

To begin to tackle this situation society/individuals/the government need/s to

..... would certainly ameliorate the situation.

This can only be dealt with if

To overcome this problem,

Were the government to, the situation would doubtless improve.

Individuals can do a great deal to

The burden of responsibility lies in the hands of

It is vitally important that

Legislation should be introduced to control

It would be a grave error if we

Concluding

All in all it seems to me that

The obvious conclusion to be drawn is that

All things considered,

On balance, I tend to believe that

The world would surely be a better place to live in if

If people stoppeding, we would have/ we could look forward to a

The prospects for the future will be bleak/grim unless

Useful Advanced Essay Structures

Participle phrases and gerunds up front:

"Burning plastics produces dioxins."

"Reducing the retirement age would create significant difficulties for pension funds."

"Having been bullied at school, I know how psychologically damaging this can be."

"Having been released from prison, many people subsequently reoffend."

Conditionals with inversions instead of "If.."

"Were the government to, we would"

"Had television not been invented, economic growth would have been slower."

"Had the police implemented the law more strictly, fewer people would now be disabled."

Cleft sentences

"What ecologists object to is"

"What many people would like to see is"

"It is the that I object to."

Inversions

"Not only are landfill sites unsightly but they are also a source of pollution"

"Rarely do we see our political leaders riding bikes."

Passives

"It is often forgotten that"

"..... is considered to be"

"..... has been attributed to"

".....has been linked with"

"The conclusion to be drawn is that"

The advanced use of 'so'

This is so grave an issue that

Linking words

Describing similarities

Likewise

Correspondingly

Equally

Not only... but also

In the same way

Similarly

Showing cause and effect

Consequently

As a result

Thus

Hence (never 'hence why')

Since (try to avoid 'as' when showing cause and effect)

Because

Therefore

Accordingly

This suggests that

It follows that

For this reason

Comparing and contrasting

Alternatively

However

Conversely

On the other hand

Instead

Yet

On the contrary

Showing limitation or contradiction

Despite/in spite of

While (not whilst!)

Even so

On the contrary

Nevertheless

Nonetheless

Although

Admittedly

Emphasis, addition or examples

To illustrate

To clarify

Further (not 'furthermore')

First, second and third (not firstly, secondly and thirdly)

For instance

Moreover

Typically

Especially

In fact

Namely

In addition

Concluding

To summarise

It can be concluded that

As can be seen

Ultimately

Given the above

As described

Finally

Transition Words and Phrases

Agreement / Addition / Similarity

The transition words like ***also, in addition, and, likewise***, add **information, reinforce ideas**, and **express agreement** with preceding material.

in the first place

not only ... but also

as a matter of fact

in like manner

in addition

coupled with
in the same fashion / way
first, second, third
in the light of
not to mention
to say nothing of
equally important
by the same token
again
to
and
also
then
equally
identically
uniquely
like
as
too
moreover
as well as
together with
of course
likewise
comparatively
correspondingly

similarly

furthermore

additionally

Opposition / Limitation / Contradiction

Transition phrases like **but**, **rather** and **or**, express that there is evidence to the **contrary** or point out **alternatives**, and thus introduce a change the line of reasoning (**contrast**).

although this may be true

in contrast

different from

of course ..., but

on the other hand

on the contrary

at the same time

in spite of

even so / though

be that as it may

then again

above all

in reality

after all

but

(and) **still**

unlike

or

(and) **yet**

while

albeit

besides

as much as

even though

although

instead

whereas

despite

conversely

otherwise

however

rather

nevertheless

nonetheless

regardless

notwithstanding

Cause / Condition / Purpose

These transitional phrases present specific **conditions** or **intentions**.

in the event that

granted (that)
as / so long as
on (the) condition (that)
for the purpose of
with this intention
with this in mind
in the hope that
to the end that
for fear that
in order to
seeing / being that
in view of
If
... then
unless

when
whenever
while

because of
as
since
while
lest
in case

provided that

given that

only / even if

so that

so as to

owing to

in as much as

due to

Examples / Support / Emphasis

These transitional devices (like ***especially***) are used to introduce examples as **support**, to indicate **importance** or as an **illustration** so that an idea is cued to the reader.

in other words

to put it differently

for one thing

as an illustration

in this case

for this reason

to put it another way

that is to say

with attention to

by all means

important to realize

another key point

first thing to remember
most compelling evidence
must be remembered
point often overlooked
to point out
on the positive side
on the negative side
with this in mind
notably
including
like
to be sure
namely
chiefly
truly
indeed
certainly
surely
markedly
such as

especially
explicitly
specifically
expressly
surprisingly

frequently

significantly

particularly

in fact

in general

in particular

in detail

for example

for instance

to demonstrate

to emphasize

to repeat

to clarify

to explain

to enumerate

Effect / Consequence / Result

Some of these transition words (*thus, then, accordingly, consequently, therefore, henceforth*) are time words that are used to show that **after** a particular time there was a **consequence** or an **effect**.

Note that **for** and **because** are placed before the cause/reason. The other devices are placed before the consequences or effects.

as a result

under those circumstances

in that case

for this reason

in effect

for

thus

because the

then

hence

consequently

therefore

thereupon

forthwith

accordingly

henceforth

Conclusion / Summary / Restatement

These transition words and phrases **conclude, summarize** and / or **restate** ideas, or indicate a final **general statement**. Also some words (like **therefore**) from the **Effect / Consequence** category can be used to summarize.

as can be seen

generally speaking

in the final analysis

all things considered

as shown above

in the long run

given these points

as has been noted

in a word

for the most part

after all

in fact

in summary

in conclusion

in short

in brief

in essence

to summarize

on balance

altogether

overall

ordinarily

usually

by and large

to sum up

on the whole

in any event

in either case

all in all

Obviously

Ultimately

Definitely

Time / Chronology / Sequence

These transitional words (like *finally*) have the function of limiting, restricting, and defining **time**. They can be used either alone or as part of **adverbial expressions**.

at the present time

from time to time

sooner or later

at the same time

up to the present time

to begin with

in due time

as soon as

as long as

in the meantime

in a moment

without delay

in the first place

all of a sudden

at this instant

first, second

immediately

quickly

finally

after

later

last
until
till
since
then
before
hence
since
when
once
about
next
now
formerly
suddenly
shortly
henceforth
whenever
eventually
meanwhile
further
during
in time
prior to
forthwith
straightaway

by the time
whenever
until now
now that
instantly
presently
occasionally

Many transition words in the time category (***consequently; first, second, third; further; hence; henceforth; since; then, when; and whenever***) have other uses.

Except for the numbers (***first, second, third***) and ***further*** they add a meaning of **time** in expressing conditions, qualifications, or reasons. The numbers are also used to **add information** or **list examples**. ***Further*** is also used to indicate added space as well as added time.

Space / Location / Place

These transition words are often used as part of ***adverbial expressions*** and have the function to restrict, limit or qualify **space**. Quite a few of these are also found in the **Time** category and can be used to describe spatial order or spatial reference.

in the middle
to the left/right
in front of
on this side
in the distance
here and there
in the foreground
in the background

in the center of

adjacent to

opposite to

here

there

next

where

from

over

near

above

below

down

up

under

further

beyond

nearby

wherever

around

between

before

alongside

amid

among

beneath

beside

behind

across

List of Transition Words

Transition Words and Phrases			
Agreement / Addition / Similarity	in the first place	again	moreover
	not only ... but also	to	as well as
	as a matter of fact	and	together with
	in like manner	also	of course
	in addition	then	likewise
	coupled with	equally	comparatively
	in the same fashion / way	identically	correspondingly
	first, second, third	uniquely	similarly
	in the light of	like	furthermore
	not to mention	as	additionally
	to say nothing of	too	
	equally important		
by the same token			
Conclusion / Summary / Restatement	as can be seen	after all	overall
	generally speaking	in fact	ordinarily
	in the final analysis	in summary	usually
	all things considered	in conclusion	by and large
	as shown above	in short	to sum up
	in the long run	in brief	on the whole
	given these points	in essence	in any event
	as has been noted	to summarize	in either case
	in a word	on balance	all in all
	for the most part	altogether	

Usage of Transition Words in Essays

Transition words and phrases are vital devices for **essays**, papers or other literary compositions. They improve the connections and transitions between sentences and paragraphs. They thus give the text a logical organization and structure.

All English **transition words and phrases** (sometimes also called 'conjunctive adverbs') do the same work as **coordinating conjunctions**: they connect two words, phrases or clauses together and thus the text is easier to read and the coherence is improved.

Usage: transition words are used with a special rule for **punctuation**: a semicolon or a period is used after the first 'sentence', and a comma is almost always used to set off the transition word from the second 'sentence'.

Example 1:

People use 43 muscles when they frown; however, they use only 28 muscles when they smile.

Example 2:

However, transition words can also be placed at the beginning of a new paragraph or sentence - not only to indicate a step forward in the reasoning, but also to relate the new material to the preceding thoughts.

Use a semicolon to connect sentences, only if the group of words on either side of the semicolon is a complete sentence each (both must have a subject and a verb, and could thus stand alone as a complete thought).