

When to use Transition Words and Phrases

Since transition words and phrases are used to make sentences and paragraphs flow together, they are usually found at the beginning and/or end of an idea. It is typical to see a transition word or phrase separate two ideas in a paper.

For instance:

Boys play a lot more video games than girls do. With this in mind, we can expect more boys to buy junk food.

Instead of:

Boys play a lot more video games than girls.
Boys buy more junk food than girls.

The two ideas have been fused together by the use of the phrase “with this in mind” allowing the reader to flow from idea to idea.

Transition sentences are essentially for higher level writing especially when creating research papers and essays.



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Transition words and phrases help establish clear connections between ideas and ensure that sentences and paragraphs flow together smoothly, making them easier to read.

The following is a list of transition words and phrases categorized by their use.

To offer more information:

besides	furthermore
in addition	additionally
indeed	in fact
second...third...	moreover

To indicate a cause or reason:

as	because
because of	due to
for the reason that	for
as a result of	since

To indicate a purpose or reason:

mindful that	for fear that
in the hope that	in order to
with this in mind	so that
so	

To indicate a particular time frame or a shift from one time period to another:

initially	immediately
later	meanwhile
next	previously
simultaneously	soon
subsequently	before
currently	during
eventually	lastly
first...second...	formerly

To summarize:

briefly	in brief
overall	summing up
to put it briefly	to sum up
to summarize	finally

To indicate an example:

for example	for instance
in particular	particularly
to demonstrate	specifically
to illustrate	

To indicate a result or an effect:

accordingly	finally
consequently	hence
so	therefore
thus	

To compare or contrast:

although	however
in comparison	in contrast
nevertheless	likewise
on the other hand	similarly
whereas	yet

To conclude:

to conclude	hence
in conclusion	so
therefore	thus
given these facts	