

WRITING TRANSITIONS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Using transitions effectively makes it easy for readers to follow your train of thought. Try to vary the ways you join ideas to keep readers interested.

MEANING	COORDINATING CONJUNCTION	SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION	SUBJUNCTIVE ADVERB	TRANSITION PHRASE
PUNCTUATION	Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction followed by another complete sentence . Do not use a comma unless there is a complete sentence after the coordinating conjunction .	Use a comma after a subordinate clause at the beginning of a sentence. Do not use a comma with a subordinating conjunction in the middle of a sentence.	A subjunctive adverb starts a new sentence or follows a semi-colon. Use a comma after a subjunctive adverb .	Punctuate these transition phrases the same as subjunctive adverbs .
EXAMPLE	He laughed, and she cried. He laughed and cried.	When he laughed, she cried. She cried when he laughed.	He laughed. Also, she cried. He laughed; also, she cried.	He laughed. After that, she cried. He laughed; after that, she cried.
REMEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There are seven coordinating conjunctions. ✓ Do not start a sentence with a coordinating conjunction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ These are some examples. There are many more. ✓ A subordinate clause is a sentence fragment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ These are some examples. There are many more. ✓ A comma is optional after a one-syllable subjunctive adverb. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ These are some examples. There are many more. ✓ Don't use a semi-colon unless you're sure you're using it correctly.
cause	for	because since	then thus	as a result for this reason
addition	and		plus additionally	
additional negative	nor			
contrast	but, yet	although	however nevertheless	on the other hand in contrast
alternative	or			
result	so		consequently therefore	because of this for this reason

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	USE...	EXAMPLE	REMEMBER
For ideas of equal importance	... a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)	Stacy weighs 300 pounds, and she eats cake every day. [Stacy's weight and how often she eats cake are equally important]	You need a complete sentence both before and after the comma and the coordinating conjunction.
	... a semi-colon (;)	Stacy eats cake every day; she weighs 300 pounds. [Stacy's weight and how often she eats cake are equally important]	You need a complete sentence both before and after the semicolon.
	... a semi-colon, a transition word or phrase, and a comma	Stacy eats cake every day; moreover, she weighs 300 pounds. [Stacy's weight and how often she eats cake are equally important]	You need a complete sentence both before and after the semi-colon, the transition, and the comma.
When one idea is more important than another	... a subordinating conjunction before the idea of lesser importance	Because Stacy eats cake every day, she weighs 300 pounds. [Stacy's weight is more important than how often she eats cake]	Either idea may come first in the sentence, but the more important idea goes in an independent clause.
		Stacy weighs 300 pounds because she eats cake every day. [Stacy's weight is more important than how often she eats cake]	

HERE ARE SOME TRANSITIONS TO LEARN TO UNDERSTAND AND USE CORRECTLY

accordingly	at that time	even so	immediately	likewise	otherwise
adjacent to	besides	eventually	importantly	meanwhile	remarkably
again	certainly	for all that	in any event	nevertheless	similarly
alternatively	clearly	for example	in consequence	nonetheless	still
an instance of this	comparable	for instance	in fact	notwithstanding	subsequently
anyway	consequently	for that reason	in particular	of course	thereafter
as a result	conversely	further	in short	on the contrary	therefore
assuredly	currently	furthermore	in the meantime	on the other hand	thus
at length	definitely	however	indeed	on the whole	without doubt

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Don't forget: students can always ask tutors or their teachers for an explanation of anything that's not clear.

Texts available to use in the SLC English Writing Lab:

<i>Grassroots with Readings</i> , Ninth Edition Susan Fawcett page 54 & inside back cover	<i>Evergreen A Guide to Writing with Readings</i> , 9 th Edition Susan Fawcett pages 61 – 67 & inside back cover	<i>The Bedford Handbook</i> , Eighth Edition, Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers pages 79 – 83 & 380 - 381
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