

Transitions

In writing, a **transitional word** or phrase connects or relates ideas. Think of **transitions** as glue, ensuring clarity and an effortless flow of ideas and words. Transitions might occur within a sentence, between ideas of a paragraph, or between paragraphs or sections.

Common Transitional Words and Phrases

<i>If you want...</i>	<i>Try these transitional words and phrases...</i>
To build similar ideas upon each other or add examples	again, also, and then, and, besides, equally important, for example, further, furthermore, in addition, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, moreover, namely, similarly, too
To show an order of events, time, or sequence	after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, finally, first/second/third, formerly, immediately, lastly, later, meanwhile, next, now, previously, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then, thereafter
To show emphasis or prove something	accordingly, because, besides, consequently, definitely, even, evidently, for the same reason, for, in addition, in any case, in fact, indeed, obviously, of course, since, that is, therefore, thus, truly
To show how ideas are different or contrast each other	although, but, by comparison, conversely, however, in contrast, in spite of, meanwhile, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, on the contrary, on the one hand ... on the other hand, still, whereas, yet
To summarize or show conclusion	briefly, finally, in a word, in brief, in conclusion, in sum, in summary, in the end, in the final analysis, most importantly, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to sum up, to summarize

Compare the two paragraphs below. Without some of the **transitions**, ideas are hard to follow and choppy, and the wording is abrupt. With the **transitional “glue,”** the ideas become clearer, and the message becomes more memorable.

Without Transitions:	With Transitions:
The game Monopoly is a staple for family game nights everywhere. Several different versions of the game are fun to play: Monopoly Deal, Monopoly Junior, and Monopoly Speed. Monopoly Deal is solely a card game and easy to play on the go. Players amass monopolies, money, and action cards to wheel and deal. Monopoly Junior is the favorite of littlest gamers for its simplicity. Monopoly Speed is much-loved. It has a short playing time and quick winner payoff. Timed “stages” require swifter decision making. Making deals, deciding on an aggressive or conservative strategy, and a lot of laughs are parts of any Monopoly game’s appeal.	The game Monopoly is a staple for family game nights everywhere. However , several different versions of the game are, in fact, equally fun to play: Monopoly Deal, Monopoly Junior, and Monopoly Speed. Monopoly Deal is solely a card game and easy to play on the go. Players amass monopolies, money, and action cards to wheel and deal. While Monopoly Junior is obviously the favorite of littlest gamers for its simplicity, Monopoly Speed is much-loved because of its short playing time and quick winner payoff. Timed “stages” require swifter decision making in contrast to the long-game strategies of the original. Making deals, deciding on an aggressive or conservative strategy, and a lot of laughs are all parts of any Monopoly game’s appeal in the end .

