Transitions

Transitions connect what was just read to what is about to be read. These devices can exist at both the sentence level and the paragraph level.

**Sentence level transitions** connect sentences together and make your writing less choppy.

- Choppy sentences:

  Students in the English class enjoy reading Shakespeare. They find his writing to be highly stylistic and creative. They enjoy reading Milton.

- Sentence with transitions:

  Students in the English class enjoy reading Shakespeare *because* they find his writing to be highly stylistic and creative. *In addition, they also* enjoy reading Milton.

**Paragraph level transitions** connect paragraphs together to make the ideas from one paragraph logically connect to the next paragraph.

- If paragraph one is about how studying for class helps student make good grades, and paragraph two is about how sleep encourages good grades, a transition sentence between the two ideas could be

  *While preparing for class can help you make good grades, getting enough sleep is also important.*

  This sentence combines the topics of each paragraph into one sentence, thereby making the ideas flow smoothly together.

**Transitional terms:**

*Addition:* and, also, in addition to, additionally, next, further, furthermore, besides, again, and, as well, equally important, moreover, then
Example: for example, in fact, for instance, specifically, to illustrate

Comparison: also, similarly, likewise, in the same way, just as

Contrast: but, however, on the other hand, although, even though, while, yet, on the contrary, in contrast, in spite of

Summary or Conclusion: therefore, in conclusion, in other words, finally, thus, in the end, in sum, to summarize

Time: after, before, next, during, finally, meanwhile, then, immediately, simultaneously, subsequently

Logical Relationship: if, so, therefore, consequently, thus, since, as a result

Emphasis: indeed, in fact, of course