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Transitional Words & Phrases

Using transitional words and phrases helps papers read more smoothly, and at the same time allows the reader to flow more smoothly from one point to the next.

Transitions enhance logical organization and understandability and improve the connections between thoughts. They indicate relations, whether within a sentence, paragraph, or paper.

This list illustrates categories of "relationships" between ideas, followed by words and phrases that can make the connections:

Addition: also, again, as well as, besides, coupled with, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly

Consequence: accordingly, as a result, consequently, for this reason, for this purpose, hence, otherwise, so then, subsequently, therefore, thus, thereupon, wherefore

Contrast and Comparison: contrast, by the same token, conversely, instead, likewise, on one hand, on the other hand, on the contrary, rather, similarly, yet, but, however, still, nevertheless, in contrast

Direction: here, there, over there, beyond, nearly, opposite, under, above, to the left, to the right, in the distance.

Diversion: by the way, incidentally

Emphasis: above all, chiefly, with attention to, especially, particularly, singularly.

Exception: aside from, barring, besides, except, excepting, excluding, exclusive of, other than, outside of, save

Exemplifying: chiefly, especially, for instance, in particular, markedly, namely, particularly, including, specifically, such as

Generalizing: as a rule, as usual, for the most part, generally, generally speaking, ordinarily, usually

Illustration: for example, for instance, for one thing, as an illustration, illustrated with, as an example, in this case

Similarity: comparatively, coupled with, correspondingly, identically, likewise, similar, moreover, together with

Restatement: in essence, in other words, namely, that is, that is to say, in short, in brief, to put it differently

Sequence: at first, first of all, to begin with, in the first place, at the same time, for now, for the time being, the next step, in time, in turn, later on, meanwhile, next, then, soon, the meantime, later, while, earlier, simultaneously, afterward, in conclusion, with this in mind,

Summarizing: after all, all in all, all things considered, briefly, by and large, in any case, in any event, in brief, in conclusion, on the whole, in short, in summary, in the final analysis, in the long run, on balance, to sum up, to summarize, finally