

Transition Words & Phrases

One of the challenges in effective academic writing is being able to transition from one idea to another, or from one argument to another in an essay. On the following pages are some sample phrases with transition words to show you how they are used.

ADDITION

Again, society is confronted with ...

Also/In addition, the weather did ...

Besides being a great leader...

Furthermore, James Hansen, one of our foremost climatologists, said ...

First, the man knocked on the door. **Second**, he ...

Finally, the protagonist realizes ...

In addition to destroying the forest, the pine beetle plague has resulted in ...

The new bridge brought business to the area. It **also increased** ...

Moreover/furthermore/additionally, when sophisticated computer models ...

CONSEQUENCE

As a consequence/ as a result of numerous cases of marriage fraud ...

The pine beetle has destroyed many trees; **consequently**, many forestry jobs ...

For this reason, he is ...

Society needs to take action on climate change, **otherwise**, we will face ...

Since there are never enough hours in the day...

John is a short man who is very strong, **hence** the nick name ...

There are not too many people living in the town, **so then**, you have to wonder ...

Public outrage **subsequently led** ...

He had worked closely with the senior advisor, **therefore** the news ...

The city was not prepared for an increase in population, **thus it will** ...

Because he failed to study for his midterm ...

He was late for his appointment **because of**...

CONTRAST AND COMPARISON

Officially, only 29 of the 300 members are textile factory owners, **but** in reality...

Dogs are always happy to see their owners. Cats, **by contrast**, are ...

Surrey's population has grown rapidly. **By the same token**, its urban problems ...

All bubblegum contains rubber, **however**, not all things ...

Hydrochloric acid **likewise** helps to dissolve ...

In contrast to the diligent bee, the butterfly ...

Instead of building monster homes ...

It is better to put your money into different funds, **rather than** locking ...

Like many dieters, ...

The first Five-Year Plan was a success; **conversely**, the second plan ...

On the one hand, he welcomes economic activity; **on the other hand**, he worries ...

Likewise/Similarly, there are lots of correlations ...

The journalist knew it was a dangerous mission, **nevertheless/nonetheless**, he still ...

Unlike plants and animals ...

Yet, as with malaria ...

James enjoys reading, **while** Thomas prefers ...

DIVERSION

By the way, I filled ...

Incidentally, they discovered ...

EMPHASIS

Above all, the company strives ...

The line up **chiefly/mainly** consisted of ...

Especially/particularly worrisome is ...

There is no point in funding these types of projects, **especially** when you consider ...

Bryan is a good student; **in fact**, he is the best student in his class.

Indeed, it takes a lot of courage to admit your mistakes.

Russia is **indeed** a country with at terrible record on gay rights.

Of course, nothing will deter ...

No other company is as efficient, **particularly when** it comes to ...

What **particularly/especially/mainly/chiefly** concerns us is ...

Surely, there must be ...

Truly, it is unlikely that ...

EXCEPTION

Aside from a few students ...

Besides Aunt Nancy ...

No one **besides** the accountant took ...

Except for the last line ...

Exclusive of its excellent service, the resort ...

He didn't say anything constructive, **except for** ...

Other than cause confusion ...

EXEMPLIFYING

For example, Smith and Jones (2004) conducted a series of ...

For instance, if a given amount of carbon ...

In particular, the author raises issues about ...

Many diseases can result at least **in part from** stress, including ...

Essentially, the idea is ...

He was excited about the game, **particularly** the way ...

Specifically my chief complaint is ...

Young people begin drinking for a variety of reasons, **such as** ...

GENERALIZING

As a general rule, I mix the ...

As usual, the new building was inaugurated with a toast of champagne.

Summer weather in Vancouver is **typically/generally/commonly** a mixture of ...

Few people turned came, but **for the most part / as a general rule / generally**, this ...

For the most part, we are ...

Generally speaking, we do not cover ...

ILLUSTRATION

It is unwise to make generalizations about people's behaviour. **For one thing**, not all ...

Pavlov found that if some other stimulus, **for example**, the ringing ...

The book's central theme is a good **example / illustration** of ...

The author **illustrates / shows / demonstrates** this point clearly by ...

Thrill seeking activities **such as** ...

The evidence for X can be clearly seen **in the case of** ...

This point can be **illustrated by** ...

Diseases that can result at least in part from stress **include** ...

SIMILARITY

Analogous to the Industrial Revolution ...

Junk email is **similar to** the ...

The sound of the thunderstorm was **like/ similar to** the ...

Areas with marshland and bogs are **likewise/equally/similarly** ...

Humor that reinforces racial stereotypes is not acceptable. **Likewise/similarly**, ...

Similar to the effects of ...

SEQUENCE

My neighbour and I **simultaneously** looked ...

The government of Canada wants to encourage immigration. **At the same time**, it ...

I was not impressed with the service. **To begin with**, I never ...

In the first place, there needs to be ...

At first/Initially, the operation was called ...

First of all, we took a random sample ...

Earlier in the novel, the appearance of ...

Later on, I will discuss ...

Then, we will turn our discussion to ...

Afterward, the White House press secretary ...

For now, the municipality will ...

For the time being, there are ...

Meanwhile, we need to ...

In the meantime, there is little ...

In time, clues begin to appear ...

The stronger species, **in turn**, prey on ...

The next step involves ...

Finally, the character is given ...

RESTATEMENT/ SUMMARIZING

The hikers have the choice of spending the night or continue hiking. **In any event**, ...

The man has the right set of skills for the job. **In other words**, he will ...

The Time Machine is a futuristic novel. **That is**, it takes ...

To put it differently/ In other words, it is hard, ...

He has extensive practical and theoretical knowledge. **In short**, he is ...

In brief, he is the most ...

Ultimately, the deciding factors in the decision ...

In conclusion, the novel is ...

In essence, the purpose of ...

Online education is the way of the future. **That is to say**, most courses ...

Vancouver is not a cheap city to live in; **after all**, it ranked ...

All in all, the committee addressed ...

All things considered, a liberal arts degree ...

Briefly / in a few words, the speaker gave a powerful and convincing argument.

By and large, the team was ...

In any case, all subjects will ...

In any event, the film fails ...

In summary, no other paintings ...

To sum up, the documentary brings ...

To summarize, multitasking can ...

In the final analysis, the panel of scientists evaluated ...

In the long run, our reliance ...

On the whole, the article is ...

I tend to agree with the first author, that **on balance**, civil disobedience is ...

For additional help, please make an appointment with a Writing & Learning Centre writing instructor at: <https://alexander.mywconline.com/>