

Writing Transitions

How we transition from one sentence to the next, or from one paragraph to the next, is important for achieving flow, and for ensuring that our work reads cohesively. We can achieve better transitions by using appropriate discourse markers. Discourse markers are:

- Words that signal rhetorical direction of intent to the reader so that the development of the topic is made easier.
- Transitionary phrases and words.
- Words that signal cause and effect, comparison, contrast, addition, etc.
- Be sure you know what the discourse marker you are using signals, i.e.
 - “However” signals that the next sentence presents an idea *in opposition* to the preceding idea.
 - “Moreover” or “furthermore” signal that the next sentence will *add to* the previous one.

Common Discourse Markers and Their Functions

| When you are adding to something you have said | When you want to illustrate something to the reader | When you are contradicting or contrasting something | When you want to make a comparison |
|--|--|---|---|
| And Also As well as Moreover Too Furthermore Additionally In conjunction with | As is revealed by Such as For example For instance In the case of As illustrated by As is demonstrated | Alternatively In contrast Whereas Alternatively Unlike Conversely Instead of On the other hand | Equally Similarly Likewise As with In the same way In a similar fashion Comparatively |
| When you are presenting a sequence | When you want to provide a qualification of something | When you want to emphasise something | When you want to show causality |
| First, second, third.. Subsequently Finally Then Initially After Meanwhile Simultaneously Next | However Although Except Unless But Aside from Apart from As long as If | Specifically In particular Above all Especially Significantly Indeed Notably Crucially | As such Because Therefore Thus Consequently Hence As a result of |