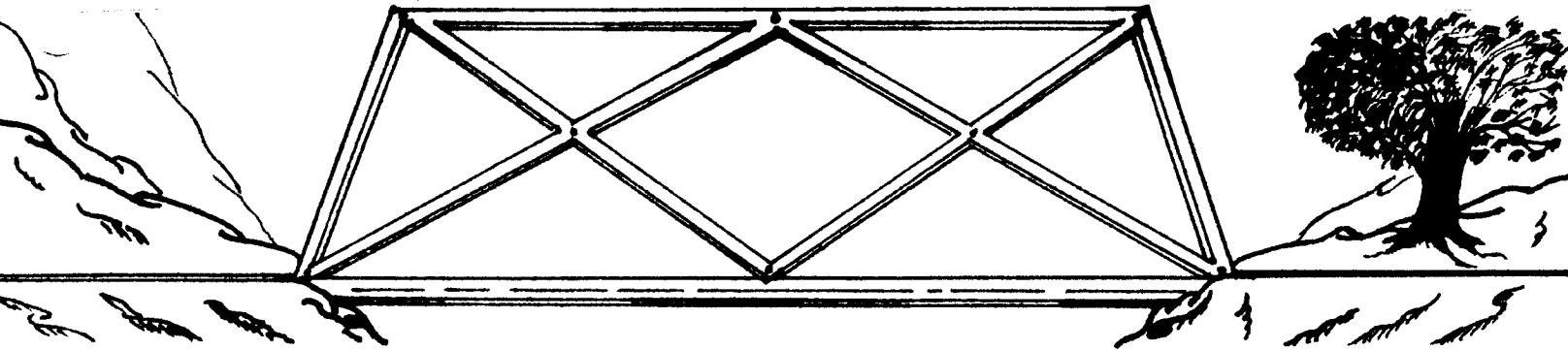


# USING TRANSITIONS TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN SENTENCES



TRANSITIONS are words that act like bridges across the gaps that often occur between sentences.

Try reading these two sentences:

John is very tall. He does not play basketball.

Did it take you a minute or so to see the connection between those two ideas? Now, try it again with the relationship between the sentences filled in with a word:

John is very tall. However, he does not play basketball.

The relationship should have been clearer because the word "however" signaled the reader that the second sentence contrasts with or maybe contradicts the first one. Now, read the next passage below:

The city government was determined not to levy new taxes. Therefore,...

As soon as you reached the word "therefore," you know what to expect-- some sort of consequence or result of the city government's determination. We need words such as "however" and "therefore" as transitions to mark relationships between sentences for our readers. We also have to use these markers precisely and sparingly!

## SOME USEFUL TRANSITION MARKERS:

*To repeat an idea just stated:* { In other words,  
That is,  
To repeat,

example: The committee has clearly indicated its unwillingness to support this venture. In other words, it has refused to grant the necessary funds.





*To restate an idea more precisely:* { To be exact,  
To be specific,  
To be precise,  
More specifically,  
More precisely,

example: The Bursar's Office stated that all fees are due soon. To be specific, all fees must be paid by Oct. 1.

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*To illustrate an idea:* { For example,  
For instance,

example: He tried desperately to please his new girl friend. For example, he even shaved every day.

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*To mark a new idea as an addition to what's been said:* { and, but, also, too,  
besides, furthermore,  
further, moreover, in  
addition, similarly

example: Joan is one of those impatient people who dislike waiting in lines. She also prefers to find her own way rather than asking for directions.

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*To announce a contrast, a change in direction:* { yet, but, however, still,  
nevertheless, on the other  
hand, in contrast, instead,  
on the contrary

example: Jim was sorry to see the semester end. Still, he was glad that his tests were over.

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*To show cause and effect:* { therefore, hence, conse-  
quently, accordingly, as a  
result, for this reason,  
thus, so

example: The rain drenched the football field. Hence, the game was postponed until the next day.

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*P.S.* - You can also show transitions between sentences by repeating words or ideas, using synonyms, and replacing nouns with pronouns.

(Adapted from Robert Miles and Marc Bertolasco's Prose Style for the Modern Writer)



## TRANSITIONAL WORDS AND PHRASES

Transitional words and phrases maintain coherence in the composition by effecting smooth movement from one thought or detail to another. The word or phrase also has meaning within itself. Below is a list of meanings with common transitional words and phrases that communicate that meaning.

**Additional:** Again, also, and then besides, finally, fourthly, further, furthermore, in addition, in addition to this, in like manner, likewise, moreover, secondly, similarly, then too, too.

**A Comparison:** At the same time, in like manner, in the same way, likewise, similarly.

**Conclusion:** Accordingly, as matters stand, at all events, at any rate, after all, or briefly, even so, finally, for these reasons, nevertheless, such being the case, that being so, to repeat.

**Concession:** But, granted that, I know that, now, of course, to be sure.

**Contrast:** But, conversely, however, in another sense, in contrast with this, instead, inversely, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, on the contrary, on the one hand, on the other hand, rather, still, though, to be sure, turning now to another matter, whereas, yet.

**Emphasis:** Above all, add to this, and also, besides, even more, I repeat, in any event, indeed, in fact, in other words, likewise, moreover, that is, too.

**Enumeration:** Finally, first, further, next, second, then, then again.

**Illustration:** All things considered, as you see, for example, for instance, incidentally, in connection with, in this way, just as, that is, therefore, to illustrate, thus, thus it follows.

**Parenthesis:** By the way, coming back to, incidentally, parenthetically, to digress, to resume.

**Progression:** As (in consequence), for that reason, further, furthermore, hence, in the first place, in the next place, moreover, on that account, therefore.

**Result:** Accordingly, after all, as a result, at last, consequently, finally, hence, in fine, later, so then, therefore, thus, in consequence.

**Retrospection:** As has already been suggested, hitherto, if what I have said is correct, so far, up to this point.

**Similarity:** By the same token, in like manner, in similar manner, likewise.

**Succession in Time or Place:** After this (incident), afterwards, then to the right, to the left, before this, beyond, later, past, presently.

**Summary:** As has been said, for these reasons, in a word, in brief, indeed, in fine, in general, in other words, in short, we now see, to recapitulate, in retrospect, to sum up.

**Time:** After this, afterwards, at last, at length, at the same time, eventually, formerly, forthwith, from now on, hereupon, immediately, in the meantime, meanwhile, next, now, previously, since then, subsequently, then, thereafter, thereupon, whereupon.