

Transitions between Paragraphs

Find yourself using, “First...my second reason is...Finally...” for transitions? If so, it’s time to eliminate these basic words to help your writing become more sophisticated.

Here are a few tricks you could use:

1) **Use a pronoun to refer to a person or idea mentioned in the preceding paragraph:**

*And that’s still not all...
Some of these feelings...
What is this new formula?*

2) **Repeat a key word.** Identify a key word that you used in the preceding paragraph, and then use the key word (or a synonym) to bridge the sentences.
Read the following excerpt from a persuasive essay in which the writer opposes year-round schooling:

Like any other facility, keeping a school open requires a great deal of money. When a school changes to a year-round schedule, the costs skyrocket. Keeping school open in the middle of summer requires air conditioning, and that adds significantly to the school’s expenses. The usual utility bills grow because of the additional open-school time. Finally, teachers must be paid for all the weeks they are working. With all these factors, the cost of keeping schools open becomes immensely high. For example, a high school in Arizona had a cost increase of \$157,000 when they switched to year-round schooling. Some schools may not be able to handle such increases, and other schools that can handle these expenses could be doing better things with the money. Is year-round school really where the **money** should go?

Money is not the only factor involved in this debate. We must also consider the more important issues of student learning.

3) **Use connectives.** See the reverse side (or scroll down if you’re online) of this sheet for some transition words you might use.



Transition Words & Phrases



Sequence:

again, also, and, and then, besides, finally,
first...second...third, furthermore, last, moreover, next, still,
too

Time:

after a bit, after a few days, after a while, afterward, as long as, as
soon as, at last, at length, at that time, before, earlier,
immediately, in the meantime, in the past, lately, later, meanwhile,
now, presently, shortly, simultaneously, since, so far, soon, then,
thereafter, until, when

Comparison:

again, also, in the same way, likewise, once more, similarly

Contrast:

although, but, despite, even though, however, in contrast, in spite
of, instead, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, on the
contrary, on the one hand...on the other hand, regardless, still,
though, yet

Examples:

after all, even, for example, for instance, indeed, in fact, of course,
specifically, such as, the following example, to illustrate

Cause and Effect:

accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, for this purpose,
hence, so, then, therefore, thereupon, thus, to this end

Place:

above, adjacent to, below, beyond, closer to, elsewhere, far, farther
on, here, near, nearby, opposite to, there, to the left, to the right

Concession:

although it is true that, granted that, I admit that, it may appear
that, naturally, of course

Summary, Repetition, or Conclusion:

as a result, as has been noted, as I have said, as we have seen, as
mentioned earlier, in any event, in conclusion, in other words, in
short, on the whole, therefore, to summarize