

# TRANSITIONS

## THE FUNCTION OF TRANSITIONS

When writing an academic or professional paper, it is important that the information is presented both clearly and concisely. Transitions aid this process by establishing connections between sentences, and paragraphs in your paper. If your paper is particularly long, they can also help link sections of the paper together. Transitions can be a word, a phrase or an entire sentence, and they tell the reader what to do with the information in your paper and how it is all logically tied together.

Before you tackle transitions, make sure that your paper is organized in a logical manner. Then, after placing all the necessary transitions, read through your paper. Your arguments and the information presented should all flow, like a waterfall descending from the top of the page to the bottom.

## TYPES OF TRANSITIONS

Transitions can be a word, a phrase, a sentence, or even a paragraph in longer papers. Whatever its length, a transition will always have the same function: first, it summarizes the content preceding it, or implies summary. It then helps the reader prepare for the information about to be presented.

1. Transitions between sections: In longer papers, you may sometimes need to write an entire transitional paragraph that summarizes the previous section and explain how it is related to the upcoming section.
2. Transitions between paragraphs: These transitions will define the relationship between the previous paragraph and the upcoming paragraph. They are normally a phrase or sentence in length.
3. Transitions within paragraphs: When moving from one idea to the next in paragraphs, transitions act as signs that let the reader know what to expect before they read it. These sorts of transitions are typically a word or a short phrase.