

The Writing Center @ KUMC

Dykes Library G011 • writing@kumc.edu • kumc.edu/writing

Transitions of Logic

Even though we can't always see them, there is always someone on the other side of your writing. Ensuring that your reader is understanding what you are trying to say is a foundational feature of written communication. Strong transitions between ideas, paragraphs, and sentences allow you to guide your reader through your thoughts—making sure they don't miss an steps in your train of thought. Sometimes, all you need is a carefully selected word or phrase to help your reader see the connection between ideas. Below, you will find a list of some of these transitions of logic.

	Milder	Stronger
Addition	a further x, and, then, and then, also, too, next, another, other	further, furthermore, moreover, in addition, additionally, besides, again, equally important, first, second, finally, last
Comparison	just as ... so too, a similar x, another x like	similarly, comparable, in the same way, likewise
Contrast	but, yet, and yet, still, otherwise, or, though, but another, rather	however, nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, even so, notwithstanding, for all that, in contrast, alternatively, at the same time, though this may be, otherwise, instead, nonetheless, conversely
Time	then, now, soon, afterward, later, shortly, earlier, recently, first, second, third, next, before, after, today, tomorrow	meanwhile, at length, presently, at last, finally, immediately, thereafter, at that time, subsequently, eventually, currently, in the meantime, in the past, in the future
Purpose	to do this, so that	to this end, with this object, for this purpose, for that reason, because of this x
Place	there, here, beyond, nearby, next to	at that point, opposite to, adjacent to, on the other side, in the front, in the back

Result	so, and so, then	hence, therefore, accordingly, consequently, thus, thereupon, as a result, in consequence
Example	that is, specifically, in particular, for one thing	for example, for instance, an instance of this, this can be seen in
Summary and Emphasis	in sum, generally, after all, by the way, in general, incidentally, naturally, I hope, at least, it seems, in brief, I suppose	in short, on the whole, as I said, in other words, to be sure, in fact, indeed, clearly, of course, anyway, remarkably, I think, assuredly, definitely, without doubt, for all that, on the whole, in any event, importantly, certainly

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Transitions of Thought

Transitions of thought consist of words that help maintain the continuity of thought from one sentence or paragraph to the next. Transitions of thought are produced by the following techniques:

Pronouns and Possessive Pronouns. Follow a noun with a pronoun (to continue the same subject) or a possessive pronoun (to move to something related to the original subject) instead of merely repeating the noun in every sentence:

- *Fido is asleep. **He** is a good dog. **His** house is near the tree.*
- *The oranges are in the bowl. Eat all you want, but check **them** for ripeness.*

Pronouns include *he, she, it, we, they, us, them, him, her, I, me, and you*. Possessive pronouns include *his, her, hers, its, their, theirs, ours, our, my, mine, your, yours*.

Keyword Repetition. Repeat the word the discussion focuses on. Note that many sentences have two or more nouns, any of which might be the subject of interest in the following sentence. To avoid confusion, repeat the noun that defines the topic:

- *Many cities are overcrowded. But now there is help for **the city**.*
- *Your gardener can apply this fertilizer to your lawn monthly. Just read the **fertilizer** label.*

Synonyms. A synonym is a word that means nearly the same as another word. The meaning is close enough so that the thought continues, but different enough so that the idea expands and gains greater definition than it would by simply repeating the same word over and over.

- *Fred's **car** is fast and powerful. But is such a **vehicle** legal? And don't **hot rods** like that pollute?*
- *We **hiked** from the meadow to the peak on Monday. Then we **walked** from the peak to the bluff Tuesday. It was quite a **trek**.*

Demonstrative Pronouns and Adjectives. Demonstrative pronouns include *this, that, these, and those*. They are useful for both direction and emphasis. However, using them by themselves can sometimes create an unclear reference, if there are two or more possible referents in the previous sentence. For example:

- *When the man saw the girl begging, he took a picture of her, even though she objected. He thought **this** was unusual. [What was unusual, the girl begging or her objecting to being photographed?]*