



Tips for Transitioning between Ideas

To create fluidity between ideas in a paragraph, you need good organization. As you review your writing, keep these questions in mind:

- Is the order logical?
- Have you explained your claims and provided evidence to back them up?
- Have you told the reader everything they need to know to understand your train of thought?

Often explaining and showing examples bridges your statements and helps your ideas flow smoothly. If you would like to create stronger transitions, consider the following:

Some transitional expressions:

| To express: | You can use: |
|---------------|--|
| Contrast | but, however on the other hand, on the contrary, in contrast, still, nevertheless, regardless, instead, though |
| Cause/Effect | so, therefore, thus, consequently, for this reason, as a result, accordingly, then |
| Time sequence | first, second, third, last, finally, afterward, now, then, again, soon, formerly, eventually, subsequently |
| Restatement | in other words, in short, in summary, that is, again |
| Emphasis | in fact, indeed, of course, certainly, after all, surely, actually, even, as a matter of fact |
| Addition | furthermore, moreover, likewise, also, in addition, besides, similarly |
| Summary | in conclusion, on the whole, all in all, in summary, to sum up |
| Example | for example, for instance, specifically, to illustrate, as demonstrated in |

A word of caution:

Overuse of these phrases can have the opposite effect you're looking for and actually interrupt the flow of ideas. Limit your use when possible and focus instead on developing ideas using sentence variety.

