**Transition Signals**

Transition signals are connecting words or phrases that act like bridges between parts of your writing. They link your sentences and paragraphs together smoothly so that there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas. Transition signals act like signposts to indicate to the reader the order and flow of your writing and ideas. They strengthen the internal cohesion of your writing. Using transitions makes it easier for the reader to follow your ideas. They help carry over a thought from one sentence to another, from one paragraph to another, or from one idea to another.

There are several different transition signals. Some lead your reader forward and imply the building of an idea or thought, while others make your reader compare ideas or draw conclusions from the preceding thoughts. The following words and phrases can be used to indicate transitions and to cue your reader about how ideas are logically connected in your writing.

► To introduce an example:

- especially
- for example
- for instance
- frequently
- in this case
- one example of this is
- on this occasion
- specifically
- take the case of
- to demonstrate
- to illustrate

► To show agreement:

- of course
- admittedly
- certainly
- no doubt
- it is true that

► To introduce an additional idea:

- additionally
- again
- also
- and
- and then
- another
- as well as
- besides
- equally important
- finally
- further
- in addition
- moreover
- one could also say
- nor
- not to mention
- furthermore

► To indicate sequence or order, or logically divide an idea:
after     eventually     previously
afterwards finally second
and then first simultaneously
at this point followed by subsequently
at this time last third
before, meanwhile ultimately
concurrently next

►To indicate time:

after,     earlier     previously
afterwards finally prior to
at this point formerly soon
at this time immediately then
before initially thereafter
during later to this day

►To compare:

another way to view this just like similarly
balanced against likewise whereas
by comparison like while

►To contrast:

a different view is even so nevertheless
and however notwithstanding
balanced against in contrast still
but on the contrary unlike
conversely on the other hand yet
differing from

►To introduce an opposite idea or show exception:

alternatively in contrast on the other hand
but in spite of still
despite instead whereas
even though nevertheless while
however one could also say yet
To show cause and effect:

- and so
- consequently
- therefore
- as a consequence
- for this reason
- thus
- as a result
- hence
- as a result
- in conclusion
- therefore
- as shown
- in other words
- thus
- consequently
- in summary
- to conclude
- finally
- on the whole
- to summarise
- hence
- summing up
- ultimately
- in brief

Below is an example of how using transitional words and phrases can improve the quality of a piece of writing. Note how the ideas flow more smoothly, and the logical relationships between the ideas expressed are clearer in the second paragraph.

Nothing is known about Adrian’s birth. We know that, during his early years, he was raised by hedgehogs in Birmingham, England. This upbringing would have a lasting effect on him. Adrian is a nocturnal creature who has been known to curl himself into a ball on occasion. The diet on which Adrian likely subsisted when he was young, namely insects, left him with a phobia for anything with more than four legs. Adrian was able to lead a relatively normal life. Mr. and Mrs. Smith rescued him from the Birmingham hedgehogs. The Smiths set about teaching Adrian how to behave in the world of humans. They taught him to speak English. They taught him to read. They sent him to school for the Arts. Adrian quickly became a talented guitar player. He decided that if he could not be a professional musician, he would curl himself into a ball forever. Adrian met some fellow musicians who were as talented as he. They formed a band that became a huge success.

It is true that nothing is known about Adrian’s birth, but we know that, during his early years, he was raised by hedgehogs in Birmingham, England. This upbringing would have a lasting effect on him; for example, Adrian is a nocturnal creature who has been known to curl himself into a ball on occasion. In addition, the diet on which Adrian likely subsisted when he was young, namely insects, left him with a phobia for anything with more than four legs. Nevertheless, Adrian was able to lead a relatively normal life after Mr. and Mrs Smith rescued him from the Birmingham hedgehogs. The Smiths set about teaching Adrian how to behave in the world of humans. First, they taught him to speak English. Second, they taught him to read. Finally, they sent him to a school for the Arts. As a result, Adrian quickly became a talented guitar player, and he decided that if he could not be a professional musician, he would curl himself into a ball forever. Ultimately, Adrian met some fellow musicians who, in comparison, were as talented as he, and they soon formed a band that became a huge success.