

Transition (Signal) Words in Exposition

The following is not a definitive list of transition words.

Purpose	Some Signal Words
Words that show order	first, next, now, then, until, while
Words that show important thoughts are coming	a key feature, a primary concern, especially, above all, most of all, most importantly, remember, a major event
Words that show more is on the way	also, and, another, first of all, furthermore, in addition, last of all, likewise, next, second, too
Words that show examples are on the way	for example, for instance, in the same ways as, much like, similar to, such as, to illustrate, the following, that is
Words that are used to add information	again, also, another, and, beside, for example, for instance, next, finally, as well, along with
Words that can emphasize or clarify a point	again, for this reason, in fact, that is, for instance, in other words, to emphasize
Words that compare or contrast two things or ideas (similarities and differences)	also, another way, both, and, but, either, however, like, nevertheless, opposite, in the same way, on the other hand, otherwise, or, rather, similarly, still, then, while, yet
Words that provide explanations or reasons for phenomena (cause and effect)	because, as a result, since, hence, thus, so that, if...then, therefore, nevertheless, due to, this led to, as a result, then...so, for this reason, on account of, consequently
Words that identify problems and pose solutions	propose, conclude, a solution, the problem or the question, research shows, the evidence is, a reason for
Words that conclude or summarize	as a result, therefore, finally, lastly, in conclusion, in summary, to sum up, all in all, in brief, in other words, in short, to conclude

Voice Quick Check for Students



Did you remember to...

Speak to readers in a way that is individual, compelling, and engaging?

Take a risk by revealing who you are and what you think?

Add flavor and texture to your writing by using the right tone and expression?

Choose an appropriate voice for the audience who will be reading it?

Write honestly and personally from the heart if it is a narrative piece?

Write to show genuine commitment to the topic if it is a persuasive or an expository piece?

Create your piece to be easily read aloud, shared, and talked about?

Use voice to make readers think about and react to your point of view?

Show control and consistency in your voice throughout the piece?

