

3. Transitions - Tutor Hints

Transitions are the words or phrases that the author uses to give the reader clues about the *relationships* between ideas. The *transition* words, by themselves, are only clues, and you cannot rely on them totally to show what kind of *relationship* or *pattern of organization* the author is using. *Relationships* and *patterns of organization* are created primarily based on the ideas that they contain, not necessarily by the *transition* words used. **This is a very important point.** If you rely only on *transitions*, you will very often fail to recognize the *pattern* or *relationship* that the author is using. For more information, see the Patterns of Organization and Relationship Hints sheets for more information on

Following are commonly used transitions:

Addition words:

One	Third(ly)	to begin with	also	further
First (of all)	another	for one thing	in addition	furthermore
Second(ly)	moreover	other	next	last(ly)
				final(ly)

Time Words:

before	Third(ly)	immediately	when	until
previously	After	next	whenever	Often
First (of all)	Later	then	while	Frequently
Second(ly)	following	as	during	Eventually
final(ly)				

Comparison Words:

(Just) as	both	likewise	similar(ly)	in a familiar fashion
(Just) Like	equal(ly)	similarity	in a familiar manner	same
Alike	resemble	the same way	(in) the same way	equally

Contrast words:

But	although	instead (of)	even though	difference
Yet	in contrast	as opposed	different(ly)	However
In spite of	converse(ly)	differ (from)	unlike	on the other hand
On the contrary	despite	Nevertheless	rather than	Still
Opposite	while			

Cause and effect words:

Therefore	so	leads to	because (of)	owing to
Thus	(as a) result	effect	reason	affect
(As a) consequence	results in	cause	explanation	if...then
Due to	since	accordingly	consequently	

Illustration Words:

(For) example	including	(as an) illustration	once
(For) instance	specifically	to illustrate	
Such as	to be specific	one	

Value Words:

Best	great	beautiful
Worst	terrible	bad
Better	lovely	good
Worse	distinguish	wonderful