

Transition Signals

One way in which you can make your writing "flow" (i.e. write sentences that are clearly and smoothly connected) is to use transition words or phrases. These highlight the logical relationships between ideas in a sentence, or between ideas in adjoining sentences or paragraphs. *

Type of relationship between ideas	To connect two sentences (Join with a full stop or semicolon)	To connect two clauses into one sentence (Join with a comma)		Other ways of connecting ideas
		When connecting 2 independent clauses (i.e. using a co-ordinating conjunction)	When connecting a dependent clause to an independent clause (i.e. using a subordinating conjunction)	
1. To add an idea	in addition also too besides moreover furthermore further	and nor		another an additional in addition to as well as along with nor not only ... but also
2. To compare ideas (show similarity)	similarly likewise also too	and	just as	similar like the same as both ... and ... not only ... but also
3. To contrast ideas • to show difference • to introduce an opposite idea, a contradiction, an unexpected finding, or a concession	however in contrast on the other hand	but	whereas while	unlike
	nevertheless nonetheless conversely still instead however on the other hand in contrast	but yet	although though even though whereas while	despite in spite of

* Use transition signals sparingly! They are useful devices, but there are often better ways to make your writing flow.

Type of relationship between ideas	To connect two sentences	To connect two clauses into one sentence		Other ways of connecting ideas	
4. To add further "depth" (detail or emphasis) to an idea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reinforce or emphasise 	in fact indeed of course clearly				
	To explain or rephrase	in other words that is			i.e.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce an example 	for example for instance			an example of such as namely to illustrate e.g.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce a more specific point 	in particular specifically			
5. To show cause & effect	therefore thus as a result as a consequence consequently accordingly hence	for so	because since as	because of due to as a result of the cause of the reason for	
6. To show sequence or a time link between ideas	first, second , ... next, then last, finally since then meanwhile		before, after while until as soon as	following since the	
7. To show an alternative	alternatively otherwise	or			

If you need to brush up on some of the terminology in this handout (e.g. dependent & independent clauses, co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions), look at our handouts on sentence structure.

More resources

If you would like to know more about how to make your writing more coherent, ask about the workshops, drop-in sessions, and individual appointments we offer.