

Using Transitions to *Develop* your Ideas

(modified from the work of Richard Norquist)

Transitional words and phrases guide readers from one sentence to the next. Although they most often appear at the beginning of a sentence, they may also show up *after* the [subject](#).

Transitions that ADD TO / EXTEND your ideas (use these transitions if you often find you don't explain your ideas fully)

and	in addition
also	furthermore
besides	moreover
first, second, third	to begin with, next, finally

Example Jack and Piggy's conflict over the conch shell symbolizes the growing division among the boys. While Piggy still believes they should still follow the rules related to speaking regarding the conch, Jack no longer recognizes the conch's authority. **Furthermore**, Jack and Piggy's disagreement demonstrates their competition for Ralph's attention.

Transitions that show CAUSE and EFFECT (use these transitions to show the consequences of your example)

accordingly	hence
and so	so
as a result	then
consequently	therefore
for this reason	thus

Example Benedick overhears Don Pedro, Claudio, and Leonato swear that Beatrice loves him. **Consequently**, he finally admits to that he too has feelings for her.

Transitions that COMPARE two examples or ideas (use these transitions to extend your analysis)

by the same token	in similar fashion
in like manner	likewise
in the same way	similarly

Example Beatrice swears that she would be happy to never fall in love with any man. **In a similar fashion**, Benedick believes no woman could ever meet his expectations.

Transitions that CONTRAST two examples or ideas (use these transitions to extend your analysis)

but	on the contrary
however	on the other hand
in contrast	still
instead	yet
nevertheless	

Example At first, Jonas doesn't understand why the Giver's job is so important. **However**, after the Giver shows Jonas the power of memory, Jonas realizes that the job of the Giver is not only important but vital to their society's survival.

Transitions that CONCLUDE / SUMMARIZE information (use these transitions to signal a shift in time or shift to another bigger idea)

and so	in closing
after all	in conclusion
at last	on the whole
finally	to conclude
in brief	to summarize

Example Although the play includes a scheming villain in the form of Don John, *Much Ado About Nothing* is one of Shakespeare's finest comedies. **After all**, what could be happier than having a double wedding to end the story?

Transitions that PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE (use these transitions when discussing an example, when moving from a general idea to a specific one)

as an example	specifically
for example	thus
for instance	to illustrate

Example Piggy is the wisest member of the group. **Specifically**, Piggy is the only boy who realizes that the first task they need to complete is to take a count of all the boys present on the island.

Transitions that INSIST or EMPHASIZE ideas (use these transitions when you have an especially powerful point to make)

in fact
indeed
no
yes

Example Piggy is the wisest member of the group. **Indeed**, Piggy is the only boy who realizes that the first task they need to complete is to take a count of all the boys present on the island.

Transitions that RESTATE ideas in a new way (use these transitions to further explain a complicated idea)

in other words	that is
in short	to put it differently
in simpler terms	to repeat

Example Jack only cares for himself and refuses to put any of his own desires aside for the sake of the group. **In short**, Jack represents the primal instinct of the human psyche.

Transitions that indicate CHANGES IN TIME (use these transitions when moving from one example to another)

afterward	in the past
at the same time	later
currently	meanwhile
earlier	previously
formerly	simultaneously
immediately	subsequently
in the future	then
in the meantime	until now

