**Transition Words & Phrases**

Adapted from Study Guides and Strategies, [www.studygs.net](http://www.studygs.net)

Using transition words and phrases helps make writing clearer and more organized. Below are some transition words and phrases sorted into categories based on what you would use them for:

**Addition *(adding something on):***  
also, again, as well as, besides, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly

**Consequence *(explaining the result of something)*:**  
as a result, consequently, for this reason, for this purpose, hence, otherwise, so then, subsequently, therefore, thus

**Comparison *(explaining that two things are alike)*:**

likewise, moreover, on the one hand, similarly

**Contrast *(explaining that two things are different)*:**

instead, on the other hand, however, in contrast

**Conclusion *(ending a piece of writing or an argument)***

to conclude, in conclusion, thus, therefore, overall, to sum up

**Direction *(explaining where something is)*:**  
here, there, over there, beyond, nearly, opposite, under, above, to the left, to the right, in the distance

**Emphasis *(explaining that something is very important)*:**above all, chiefly, especially, particularly, most importantly

**Exemplifying *(using something as an example)*:**for example, for instance, in fact, in particular, specifically, such as, to illustrate

**Generalizing *(saying that something usually happens)*:**  
as a rule, per usual, as usual, for the most part, generally, generally speaking, ordinarily, usually

**Restatement *(repeating something)*:**  
in other words, in short, to be brief, to put it differently

**Sequence *(explaining the order of things)*:**  
at first, first of all, to begin with, in the first place, at the same time, secondly, next, then, soon,  
afterward, in conclusion, thirdly, lastly

**Summarizing *(briefly telling information again in fewer words)*:**  
after all, all in all, all things considered, in conclusion, on the whole, in summary, to sum up, to summarize, finally