Transition words create flow between the ideas presented in a paper. They can connect similar facts, contrast opposing arguments, explain a cause and effect relationship, help to illustrate a point, identify a sequence of events, and/or lead the reader to a conclusion.

**Types and Uses:**

- **Causation**-use these transition words to show the cause and effect relationship between ideas:
  - so, therefore, because, for, as a result, accordingly, because of this, hence, consequently, thus, due to, for this reason.

  Example: The article suggests that enrolment in post-secondary institutions has decreased as a result of the rise in tuition.

- **Conclusion**-use these transition words to bring your ideas together at the end of a paragraph or to summarize at the end of your paper:
  - all in all, in conclusion, in short, and so, thus, on the whole, therefore, so, in brief, to summarize.

  Example: In conclusion, students who work or volunteer on campus spend more time with faculty, staff, and other students and therefore they tend to feel a greater connection to the university community.

- **Contrast**-use these transition words to contrast a previously mentioned point:
  - or, on the other hand, yet, still, but, however, instead, nonetheless, on the contrary, conversely, notwithstanding, nevertheless, or, another possibility, neither...nor..., though, although, whereas, in contrast.

  Example: Interesting ideas make a paper exciting to read. However, grammar mistakes can make these ideas unclear to the reader.
Coordination—use these transition words to add to a previous point:

and, also, as well, at the same time, in the same way, not only... but also, furthermore, moreover, likewise, similarly, equally important too, additionally, in addition.

Example: Staying physically active while attending university is not only beneficial from a health standpoint, but also increases overall motivation.

Inclusion—use these words to introduce examples, illustrations, or in-depth explanations into your paper:

for example, for instance, such as, like, in particular, specifically, to illustrate, to demonstrate, this is, namely, in other words, in fact, indeed, frequently, occasionally, in general.

Example: There are many on-campus resources to improve writing and learning strategies. For example, the Student Learning Commons in the Library holds workshops on topics such as grammar, clear and concise writing, and critical thinking.

Sequence—use these transition words to indicate a point in time or a progression of ideas:

then, next, finally, afterwards, eventually, later, meanwhile, soon, presently, immediately, since, formerly, previously, last, at last, at length, subsequently, in the meantime, simultaneously, first, second.

Example: First, I will explain the importance of learning in a university environment, and then, I will relate this information to a successful career.

Note: these lists are not exhaustive; add your own ‘favourite’ transition words!

Further Resources: