**TRANSITION WORDS**

To improve your writing you need to make sure that your ideas, both in sentences and paragraphs, stick together or have coherence and that the gap between ideas is bridged smoothly. One way to do this is by using transitions - words or phrases or techniques that help bring two ideas together. Transitional words and phrases represent one way of gaining coherence. Certain words help continue an idea, indicate a shift of though or contrast, or sum up a conclusion. Check the following list of words to find those that will pull your sentences and paragraphs together.

**For continuing a common line of reasoning:**

consequently  
clearly, then  
furthermore  
additionally  
and  
in addition  
moreover  
because  
besides that  
in the same way  
following this further  
also  
pursuing this further  
in the light of the... it is easy to see that

**To change the line of reasoning (contrast):**

however  
on the other hand  
but  
yet  
nevertheless  
on the contrary

**For opening a paragraph initially or for general use:**

admittedly  
assuredly  
certainly  
granted  
no doubt  
nobody denies  
obviously  
of course  
to be sure  
true  
undoubtedly  
unquestionably  
generally speaking  
in general  
at this level  
in this situation

**For the final points of a paragraph or essay:**

finally  
lastly

**Transitional chains, to use in separating sections of a paragraph which is arranged chronologically:**

first... second... third...  
generally... furthermore... finally  
in the first place... also... lastly  
in the first place... pursuing this further... finally  
to be sure... additionally... lastly  
in the first place... just in the same way... finally  
basically... similarly... as well

**To signal conclusion:**

therefore  
this  
hence  
in final analysis  
in conclusion  
in final consideration  
indeed

**To restate a point within a paragraph in another way or in a more exacting way:**

in other words  
point in fact  
specifically

**Sequence or time**

after  
afterwards  
as soon as  
at first  
at last  
before  
before long  
finally  
first... second... third  
in the first place  
in the meantime  
later  
meanwhile  
next  
soon  
then

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