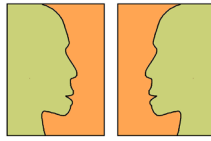


MINI-LESSON



TRANSITIONS

In your essay, you are trying to convince a reader to change their mind about something. To make that more likely, you need to be sure your essay is perfectly clear so your reader is never once confused or lost while they read.

One of the best ways to guide your reader through your writing is to use effective **transitions**, words and phrases that show the relationships between ideas. Transitions act as little signposts in a piece of writing to help the reader along.

Take a look at these two versions of the same sample paragraph. The first one does not use transitions:

I think dogs make better pets than cats. Dogs are friendlier. They are more loyal. They are more protective. One time, a strange man was walking in my neighborhood and my dog started to bark. The man left.

If we add transitions, the ideas are more clearly connected to each other. The writing also feels a lot smoother:

I think dogs make better pets than cats. **For one thing**, dogs are friendlier. They are **also** more loyal. **Lastly**, they are more protective. **For example**, one time a strange man was walking in my neighborhood and my dog started to bark. **As a result**, the man left.

What to Do Now

Using the list of transitional words and phrases on the next page, go through your essay and find places where you can add transitions to connect your ideas and make the reading flow more smoothly.

Transitional Words and Phrases

To Add

again
also
another
finally
first
for one
furthermore
in addition
lastly
moreover
next
second
secondly
third
too
what's more

To Show Time

after
during
earlier
finally
first (second, third...)
following
immediately
later
meanwhile
next
soon
then
when
while

To Illustrate

as an illustration
for example
for instance
take the case of
to demonstrate
to illustrate

To Clarify

in other words
that is to say
to put it another way

To Show Cause

as a result
consequently
due to
for that reason
on account of
therefore
thus

To Show Exception

despite
however
in spite of
nevertheless
of course
still

To Compare or Contrast

although
by comparison
compared to
conversely
however
in contrast
in the same way
likewise
meanwhile
nevertheless
on the contrary
on the other hand
similarly
whereas

To Summarize or Conclude

in conclusion
in short
in summary
on the whole
to summarize
to sum up