Did you know?

- Many of our “transitional phrases” actually are conjunctive adverbs, such as “however,” “although,” “nevertheless,” or “on the other hand.”

- And, but, for, nor, yet, or, and so – whenever you combine sentences using these conjunctions, you are transitioning.

- Having a key word or phrase that repeats throughout your writing helps your ideas become coherent and helps the reader follow your line of thought.

- “Pronouns quite naturally connect ideas because pronouns almost always refer the reader to something earlier in the text.” Such pronouns as this, that, it, they, their, etc., are helpful in accomplishing this sense of unity in your writing by referring to something else.

Source:
http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/transitions.htm


**Using Transitions**

Like bridges connecting two different towns, transitions use words or phrases that connect two separate ideas.

---

**Transitions that show comparison**
These transitions show that two ideas are positively related.

Ex. He enjoys his class, **even though** it is at 8 a.m.

**Transitions that show contrast**
Ideas that are not clearly related but are used together require a transition.

Ex. The sun is bright **however** the sea is cold.

**Transitions that add information**
When you are connecting an idea that adds on to the one before it, use a transition to show their connection.

Ex. The boys are tired; **moreover**, they are hungry.

**Transitions that conclude**
When you are going to summarize or conclude a series of thoughts, signal your summary with transitional word.

Ex. **Overall**, I thought the show was excellent.

**Transitions that show an exception**
These transitions show that this idea is not included with the previous ones.

Ex. **Unless** it is hot outside, I love running the lake.

**Transitions that give examples**
Say you are including examples to support a main idea in your paragraph. Some phrases like these would be helpful to show how that idea is connected:

Ex. Not all birds are the same. **For example**, some birds, **such as** penguins, can’t fly.

**Transitions that give a timeframe**
Sometimes a transition is needed to show a difference in time between two events.

Ex. Molly drank some water **before** she went on a run.

Ex. **At that time**, they had no tractors.

**Transitions that show a cause or reason**
To show that one thing is the “cause” of another, use a transitional word that signals a cause or reason.

Ex. **Because** of the thunderstorm, the swim meet was cancelled.

**Transitions that show an effect or result**
Sometimes one sentence is a result of something you mentioned before. Using a transition word that signals an effect or result shows readers that this idea comes as a result of the others.

Ex. **Therefore**, it is important to brush your teeth.