

## Ways to Create Transitions Between Paragraphs

Making transitions between ideas is important, which also includes connecting paragraphs so the paper flows smoothly from one thought to the next. Below are some suggestions for making those smooth transitions from paragraph to paragraph:

- 1) Use the final sentence of a paragraph to sum it up and lead into the next one:

. . . The girls danced together for a number of years until Suzy broke her leg.

Ironically, Suzy broke her leg while riding her bike to practice.

- 2) Use the first sentence of a paragraph as the transition from the previous paragraph:

. . . The builders were not held responsible for the damage.

As they continued on after the incident, the workers couldn't help but feel resentful over what had happened. The next step was to rebuild not only the structure but relationships as well.

- 3) Use key words from the previous paragraph in the first sentence of the paragraph:

. . . The tiny house consisted of three rooms: a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen.

The kitchen was the largest of the three rooms and was where most of the living took place.

- 4) Ask a question at the end of one paragraph and answer it in the next one:

. . . What had occurred that couldn't be shared with the parents?

The parents discovered too soon what had happened when the police knocked on their door.

# Transitional Words and Phrases

(Adapted from *The Little Brown Handbook 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*)

## Time

after a while  
afterward  
as long as  
as soon as  
at last  
at length  
at that time  
before  
earlier  
formerly  
immediately  
in the meantime  
in the past  
lately  
later  
meanwhile  
now  
presently  
shortly  
simultaneously  
since  
so far  
soon  
subsequently  
then  
thereafter  
until  
until now  
when

## Adding One Thought to Another

again  
also  
and  
and then  
besides  
equally important  
finally  
first  
further  
furthermore  
in addition

in the first place  
last  
moreover  
next  
second  
still  
too

## Compare Ideas

also  
in the same way  
likewise  
similarly

## Contrast Ideas

although  
and yet  
but  
but at the same time  
despite  
even so  
even though  
for all that  
however  
in contrast  
in spite of  
nevertheless  
notwithstanding  
on the contrary  
on the other hand  
regardless  
still  
though  
yet

## Summarize, Repeat, Conclude

all in all  
altogether  
as has been said  
in brief  
in conclusion  
in other words

in particular  
in short  
in simpler terms  
in summary  
on the whole  
that is  
therefore  
to put it differently  
to summarize

## To Show Cause and Effect

accordingly  
as a result  
because  
consequently  
for this purpose  
hence  
otherwise  
since  
then  
therefore  
thereupon  
thus  
to this end  
with this object

## To Give Examples or Intensify

after all  
an illustration of  
even  
for example  
for instance  
indeed  
in fact  
it is true  
of course  
specifically  
that is (to say)  
to illustrate  
truly