Transitions:
Making Your Ideas and Sentences Flow Better

Transition words, such as *therefore, however, furthermore, indeed, then, in fact, to the contrary, and for instance*, are words that help introduce explanatory phrases to your sentences in order to provide more information for your readers. They show the connection between two different or similar ideas. Keene and Adams (2003) note that “You should use a comma to separate the transitional word or phrase from the rest of the sentence; if the transition occurs in the middle of the sentence, place a comma before and after it” (159). There are many kinds of transition words that could be used depending on the context of your sentences. As such, the following transition words are thematically grouped together depending on the context of the sentences.

**Group of words that provide additional information:**

Also, besides, equally important, furthermore, in addition, moreover, too, above all, likewise, in other words, next, besides, similarly, first, second, finally...

**Group of words that provide contrasting information:**

At the same time, despite that, however, in contrast, instead, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand, otherwise, although this is true, conversely, but, yet...

**Group of words that show results or consequences of ideas:**

Accordingly, as result, consequently, hence, then, therefore, thus, for that reason...

**Group of words that provide a summary of your ideas:**

Finally, in conclusion, in short, in summary, to sum up, in brief, in short, in general, in conclusion...

**Examples:**

- *Consequently*, I felt sick the next morning.
- *Mary, on the other hand*, was the exact opposite of Jack.
- *In conclusion*, you should now be able to use transition words in your essays.