

CONTACT

asc@ufv.ca

AB G126; 604-504-7441 x4282

CEP A1212; 604-504-7441 x2432

ufv.ca/asc

TRANSITIONS AND CONNECTIVE EXPRESSIONS

Online: <https://www.ufv.ca/asc/>

Transitional expressions are like signposts: they guide your reader as you move from one topic to another. They are particularly valuable in showing that you are beginning a new division or subdivision and for showing relationships between your points. Transitions signal that one part of the discussion has ended, and they give your reader hints about how the next phase of thought is connected. Transitions often occur, then, in topic sentences at the beginning of paragraphs, but they also occur *within* paragraphs to show relationships between points. Without transitions and connective expressions, readers are left to try to figure out the relationships between your points; instead, you want transitions and connective expressions to guide readers throughout your text.

Typically, when a transition occurs at the beginning of a complete sentence, it is followed by a comma.

On the other hand, a trip to Moose Jaw can be very educational. (used to show contrast)

Furthermore, I have to write a proposal. (used to show addition)

Finally, the most important consideration is the quality of food. (used to show time, conclusion)

Transitional words and phrases can also be placed after the subject, in which case commas surround them.

Moose Jaw, *on the other hand*, is a great place for an educational vacation.

I have to write a proposal, *furthermore*.

The most important consideration, *finally*, is the quality of food.

On the back side of this handout are some examples of transitions and connective expressions and their possible uses. It is important to note these words and phrases can be used in a number of ways for different purposes.

Addition

and
too
furthermore
in addition
further
also
another

Further Explanation

in other words
thus
that is
that is to say
likewise
moreover

Causation

as a result
consequently
subsequently
therefore
hence
so
in order to
because

Compare/contrast

but
however
yet
whereas
on the contrary
on the other hand
rather
although
though
as
as if
as though
in spite of
otherwise
similarly
or
nor
neither
either
in comparison

Emphasis/repetition

for instance
for example
in particular
certainly
indeed
undoubtedly
of course
surely
obviously

Relationship

accordingly
equally important
in fact
more specifically
more interesting
inasmuch as
hence
for this reason
notwithstanding
inevitably
in order to
for this purpose
in this way
since
if
admittedly
notwithstanding
nevertheless

Conclusion

as I have said
as stated
to conclude
in conclusion
last
finally
to sum up

Time

soon/later
at present
historically
until
occasionally
henceforward
at length

Place

from
where
beyond
over
in the middle
around
here/there