

Transitions



“Let me interrupt your expertise with my confidence.”



“That reminds me of the thing I was going to say next regardless.”

Transitions

Exposition

Enumeration: to mark in a series; to indicate order; to set out points of an argument

Ordinal numerals and adverbs

first(ly), second(ly), third(ly), etc.

Ordinal or proponent phrases

initial

in the first place, to begin with, to start with, first and foremost, for one thing, apart from anything else, etc.

medial

in the second place, then, next, after that, to continue, furthermore, what is more, moreover, in addition, for one thing, etc.

final

finally, lastly, all in all, last but not least, in short, to sum up, by way of conclusion, in conclusion, one final point, etc.

Addition and specification: to introduce a point

in addition, equally, similarly, in the same way, by the same token, also, further, not only ... but also, as well, even, besides, too; in particular, particularly, chiefly, especially, mostly

Exemplification or apposition: to illustrate a point

for example, for instance, a case in point, to take (quote, cite), a typical case (instance, example), that is, that is to say, by way of illustration (elucidation or example)

Result and inference: to indicate consequence

consequently, in consequence, as a consequence, as a result, as a result of which, in view of which, in which case, so, thus, therefore, for

Reformulation: to announce that some foregoing expression is to be rephrased

in other words, or rather, to put it another way, differently put, alternatively; as it were, so to speak, if you will

Disjunction, enlargement, and transition: to indicate a revised point of view

in fact, indeed, evidently, clearly, of course, admittedly, actually; now, turning to, as for, as far as X is concerned

Interruption

Contradictives: to oppose or exclude a foregoing proposition
but, on the contrary, on the other hand, against that, instead

Contrastives: to countervail an assertion without excluding it
nevertheless, notwithstanding, however, yet, still, all the same, for all that; by (in) contrast, looking at it another way

Concessives: to acknowledge and forestall criticism, objections, and omissions
admittedly, assuredly, certainly, naturally, of course, true, it is true, to be sure

Time

Indicators

then, just then, at that time, in those days, last Friday, last year, next Easter, in 1978, at the beginning of June, on the stroke of ten, at four o'clock, five months ago, when these events began

Relaters

Precedence

until (then), by (then), before (then), hitherto, up to that time, in the preceding months (weeks, days, etc.), in the weeks (months, days, etc.) leading up to, prior to

Beginning a narrative: at first, to begin with, at the outset, in the beginning

Co-occurrence

at the same time, in the meantime, meanwhile, simultaneously, at that (very) moment, (even) while (this was going on), as (these events were unfolding), all the while, all along

Subsequence

subsequently, afterwards, then, next, thereafter, presently, by and by, after a while, later (on), in later days, at a later period, in days to come; in due course, eventually, finally, at last, at length, at the finish, in the long run, in the end

Distributors

Frequency

frequently, hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, etc.; occasionally, now and then, every so often, again and again, from time to time, as the years go by; day after day, year after year, etc.

Duration

briefly, for some moments, for many years, during those hours; second by second, minute by minute; for days (on end), for hours (on end), for hours (at a stretch), etc.

Place

Juncture

at, in, on, on top of, here, there, where, against, touching

Space

above, below, beneath, behind, facing, flanking, inside, within, on one side, to one side, to the right, to the left, on the opposite side (of), in front (of), before, (all) round, (all) around, etc.

Direction

across, along, aside, up, down, to, to and fro, forward(s), backward(s), upward(s), downward(s), inward(s), obliquely, sideways, longways, at an angle, (all) over, to the right, to the left, north, south, east, west

Proximity

adjoining, adjacent, against, alongside, near, nearby, next to, hard by, close to, face to face, back to back, at hand, in the foreground, in the background

Distance

beyond, in the distance, in the background, past, far away (off), on the far side, at the farther end, there, outside, to the north, etc.



*"I hardly think a transition team is necessary, Ed,
in order to switch from beer to Scotch."*

Adapted from "The Gaps between Sentences" in *Designs in Prose* by Walter Nash (Longman, 1980).