

Transitions

There are two places where you will need to use transitions: **within paragraphs** and **between paragraphs**.

Look at this paragraph:

The Japanese can develop highly profitable products because their labor is technologically oriented. Many Japanese work as engineers, technicians, or scientists, or some other occupation related to technology and production. Many Japanese students choose to major in high-tech fields instead of the humanities. The United States is less materialistic than Japan. Many college students pursue their dreams instead of profits, majoring in the fine arts, history and philosophy. Many Americans work in the areas of humanities and social work. Only a small percentage of the Japanese population work in those areas.

Look at the paragraph with transitions added:

The Japanese can develop highly profitable products because their labor is technologically oriented. **For example**, many Japanese work as engineers, technicians, or scientists, or some other occupation related to technology and production. **Moreover**, many Japanese students choose to major in high-tech fields instead of the humanities. **In comparison**, the United States is less materialistic than Japan. Many college students pursue their dreams instead of profits, majoring in the fine arts, history and philosophy. **In addition**, many Americans work in the areas of humanities and social work. **By contrast**, only a small percentage of the Japanese population work in those areas.

Using transitions appropriately can make a big difference in making a paragraph easy to follow.

Placement of transitions

1. At the beginning of a sentence, with a comma:

The boat sank. **However**, the crew survived.

2. Between sentences, with a semicolon and comma:

The boat sank; **however**, the crew survived.

3. Within the sentences, with two commas:

The boat sank. The crew, **however**, survived.

Common Transitions

Giving Examples

For example
An example of this

For instance
To illustrate

Enumerating/Sequence Summary

First, second(ly), third(ly)
Finally
Lastly

In conclusion
In summary
To conclude
To summarize
On the whole

Adding information

Furthermore
Moreover
In addition

Focusing information/emphasis

Indeed
In fact
Again
Surely

Contrasting

However
In contrast,
By contrast
On the other hand
Unlike

Nonetheless
Nevertheless
Still

Comparison

Like X, Y is....
Similarly
Likewise
In the same way

Cause/Effect

Consequently
As a consequence
For this reason
As a result
Hence
Thus
Therefore

Watch out: On the contrary (meaning):
MIT is not easy. **On the contrary**, studying here is extremely demanding.

Not only....but also (placement - smallest grammatically equal unit)
Clinton disappointed **not only** the voters **but also** his family.

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21G.222 Expository Writing for Bilingual Students
Fall 2002

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