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

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

Summary

- 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

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.