

Word Lists for Essay Writing

Many writers have favorite transitional words that they gravitate towards when writing an essay, such as “nevertheless” or “consequently.” These words define a writer’s style, but at times, they can also make the writing sound repetitive or imprecise. If you’re stuck on which transitional word to use, taking a look at a word list can help you fine-tune your word choice and discover new options. Below are some word lists, grouped by function, to help get you started!

Indicating comparison:

- after all
- along the same lines
- also
- as well as
- by comparison
- comparatively
- compared to
- consistent with
- correspondingly
- equivalently
- in a similar fashion
- likewise
- meanwhile
- similarly
- synonymously

Indicating contrast:

- although
- and yet
- but
- by contrast
- contrary to
- conversely
- counter to
- despite
- even though
- however
- in contrast
- in opposition to
- nevertheless
- on the contrary

- on the other hand
- otherwise
- regardless

Indicating cause and effect:

- accordingly
- as a result
- because
- consequently
- due to
- for this reason
- in effect
- it follows that
- subsequently
- thereafter
- therefore
- to this end

Indicating emphasis:

- above all
- actually
- after all
- as a matter of fact
- certainly
- in fact
- indeed
- moreover
- most of all
- surely
- to emphasize
- without question

Indicating an example:

- a case in point
- consider
- for example
- for instance
- in fact
- in other words
- in this case
- namely
- suppose that
- to be exact
- to clarify
- to illuminate
- to illustrate
- to put another way

Indicating elaboration:

- actually
- by extension
- to put it in other words
- to put it succinctly
- ultimately

Indicating summary or conclusion:

- accordingly
- as a result
- consequently
- in conclusion
- it follows, then
- in sum

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- therefore
- to conclude

Indicating time order:

- formerly
- in retrospect
- in the past
- not long ago
- of late
- previously
- prior to
- recently

Indicating sequence:

- at first
- at the beginning
- earlier
- from the outset
- from this point
- initially
- starting with

Indicating a concession:

- admittedly
- although it is true that
- granted
- naturally
- to be sure