

Transitions

Transitions connect ideas within a sentence.
They also link sentences and paragraphs.
They are the glue that holds a story together.
Transitions help the reader understand how the story's ideas connect.
They also act as sign posts to alert us to the introduction of new ideas.

Two types of transitions:

transitions of logic
transitions of thought

transitions of logic:

Words or phrases that show the logical connection between two ideas.
Types of logical connections:

Addition:

and and then
also too
Police questioned Fromme again Thursday morning,
and she then admitted that she kidnapped
Roman.

transitions of logic:

Contrast:

but although
and yet however
Police searched throughout the night but found no
sign of the boy.

President Carter's decisions while in office have been criticized by both Democrats and Republics. However, his efforts to ease world tensions and to encourage democracies since he left office have been universally praised.

transitions of logic:

Time:

then	now
later	soon
afterward	recently

Fromme later explained that she kidnapped Roman to get even with his parents.

Although Davis said during the campaign that he is opposed to outlawing guns, he recently said he would support banning assault rifles.

transitions of logic:

Place:

there	nearby
here	beyond

The guide showed the U.N. investigators a mass grave outside the village. Nearby they found dozens of shell casings from automatic rifles lying on the ground.

Transitions of Thought

Words that carry the thought from one sentence or paragraph to the next.

Variations of the words are repeated from sentence to sentence.

Types of transitions of thought:

Pronouns and Possessive Pronouns:

Use a pronoun to continue with the same subject.

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Types of transitions of thought:

Pronouns and Possessive Pronouns:

Use a possessive pronoun to move onto a related subject.

The cat is in the kitchen; I saw him there a few minutes ago. He might be hungry; his food bowl is empty.

The neighbors must be out of town. Their newspapers are still in the driveway.

Types of transitions of thought:

Demonstrative Pronouns:

Demonstrative pronouns include:
this, that, these and those

Some people say creationism should be included science textbooks. That idea, however, is opposed by most paleontologists and geologists.

The books you'll need for class are on the table. Those books in the box are out of date.

Types of transitions of thought:

Word Repetition:

Story about James Lipton's interview with Julia Roberts on "Inside the Actors Studio":

Lipton pointed out how spontaneous Roberts is as an actress.

"I don't like to rehearse," Roberts explained. "I have only so many good takes inside of me."

She is not so spontaneous when accepting a part for a movie, however.

Types of transitions of thought:

Word Repetition:

Public Radio International, April 28, 1998, tease for upcoming news reports:

Saddam Hussein turns 61; Madeleine Albright turns to China; and cancer researchers look to new cures.

The writing coach said exercising the mind before starting to write is as important to a writer as exercising the legs before starting a race is a runner. [This also uses parallel structure.]

DeView has few permanent assignments, meaning that few reporters are required to show her everything they write. [This also uses parallel structure.]

From an LA Times column during President Clinton's impeachment hearings on how preparation for the hearings disrupted the private lives of members of Congress and their staffs:

Even Rep. James Rogan (R-Glendale), a linchpin of the House prosecution team, drew the line when he passed an on an invitation to debrief Monica Lewinsky at the Washington Mayflower Hotel so he could take his twin daughters to the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

Sometimes it's easier to draw the line when you're the boss. Lowly Senate staff members find it hard to ignore a call to arms, a measure of the obsessive work ethic that grips Washington...