

Aula 6

BODY PARAGRAPH II: TRANSITIONS

META

This class aims at practising body paragraphs.

OBJETIVOS

At the end of this class, it is expected that the students:
Recognise transition signals in body paragraphs;
Understand the use of transitional signals in body paragraphs;
Write clear and concise ideas in a body paragraph

PRÉ-REQUISITOS

Previous knowledge about paragraph structure and types of paragraphs.

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INTRODUÇÃO

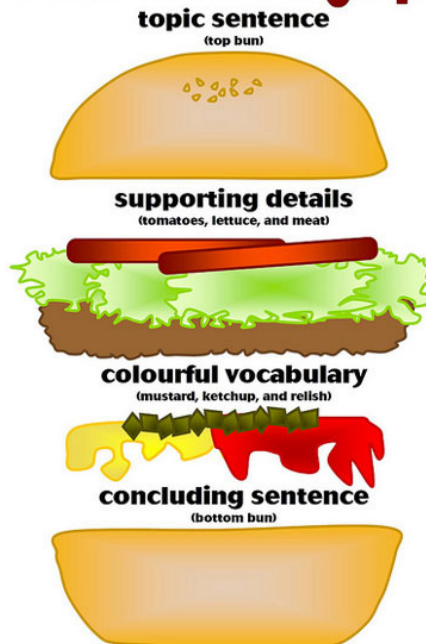


Fonte: <https://theimpactnews.com>

Welcome to Class 6! Keeping track of body paragraphs, you will read about transitional signals, which are essential devices in body paragraphs.

Good transitions make the reading of your essay flow. Hence, your reader will understand your arguments due to logical transition of ideas as well as transitional expressions. These, in turn, indicate how your ideas progress in the essay. In this regard, let's read and practise them!

Parts of a Paragraph



Flickr: Enokson

Source: <http://3.bp.blogspot.com>

Transitions

➤ **What are transitions?**

Transitions are words that connect the steps in a paragraph. Transition words and phrases show the relationships between the ideas in a paragraph. They are not used between every sentence, but are used often enough to make the order clear. Here are some common transition words and phrases that show time order or the order of steps:

first, second, third, etc.	finally
next	the last step
then	before
after, after that	while

10 Add other transition words you know to the list above.


11 Choose appropriate transition words to connect the steps in this paragraph about preparing for a trip.

Planning a holiday abroad? Here are some suggestions to make your trip successful.

^a, find out if you need a visa for the country that you want to visit. Make sure you have enough time to apply for it ^b you buy your ticket.

^c you've found out about visas, you should research airfares and timetables.

^d, look for the best flight for you. Remember, the cheapest flight may stop over in several cities and reduce the amount of time you have to spend at your destination. You might want to fly direct. ^e you're researching flights, you can also ask your travel agent about getting a good deal on a hotel. It's a good idea to book your flight and hotel early if you're sure of your destination. If you haven't already done it, the ^f step is to learn about places to visit, the weather, the food, and other details about the country. The Internet can be a very useful source of information. ^g, on the day of your flight, make sure you go to the airport at least two hours before your flight. Now you are ready to start enjoying your holiday!



Source: ZEMACH, Dorothy E.; RUMISEK, Lisa A. Academic Writing: from Paragraph to essay. Oxford: Macmillan Education, 2005, p. 30.

TRANSITIONS

The function and importance of transitions

In both academic writing and professional writing, your goal is to convey information clearly and concisely, if not to convert the reader to your way of thinking. Transitions help you to achieve these goals by esta-

blishing logical connections between sentences, paragraphs, and sections of your papers. In other words, transitions tell readers what to do with the information you present to them. Whether single words, quick phrases, or full sentences, they function as signs that tell readers how to think about, organize, and react to old and new ideas as they read through what you have written.

Transitions signal relationships between ideas—relationships such as: “Another example coming up—stay alert!” or “Here’s an exception to my previous statement” or “Although this idea appears to be true, here’s the real story.” Basically, transitions provide the reader with directions for how to piece together your ideas into a logically coherent argument. Transitions are not just verbal decorations that embellish your paper by making it sound or read better. They are words with particular meanings that tell the reader to think and react in a particular way to your ideas. In providing the reader with these important cues, transitions help readers understand the logic of how your ideas fit together.

SIGNS THAT YOU MIGHT NEED TO WORK ON YOUR TRANSITIONS

How can you tell whether you need to work on your transitions? Here are some possible clues:

- Your instructor has written comments like “choppy,” “jumpy,” “abrupt,” “flow,” “need signposts,” or “how is this related?” on your papers.
- Your readers (instructors, friends, or classmates) tell you that they had trouble following your organization or train of thought.
- You tend to write the way you think—and your brain often jumps from one idea to another pretty quickly.
- You wrote your paper in several discrete “chunks” and then pasted them together.
- You are working on a group paper; the draft you are working on was created by pasting pieces of several people’s writing together.

ORGANIZATION

Since the clarity and effectiveness of your transitions will depend greatly on how well you have organized your paper, you may want to evaluate your paper’s organization before you work on transitions. In the margins of your draft, summarize in a word or short phrase what each paragraph is about or how it fits into your analysis as a whole. This exercise should help you to see the order of and connection between your ideas more clearly.

If after doing this exercise you find that you still have difficulty linking your ideas together in a coherent fashion, your problem may not be with transitions but with organization. For help in this area (and a more thorough explanation of the “reverse outlining” technique described in the previous paragraph), please see the Writing Center’s handout on organization.

HOW TRANSITIONS WORK

The organization of your written work includes two elements: (1) the order in which you have chosen to present the different parts of your discussion or argument, and (2) the relationships you construct between these parts. Transitions cannot substitute for good organization, but they can make your organization clearer and easier to follow. Take a look at the following example:

El Pais, a Latin American country, has a new democratic government after having been a dictatorship for many years. Assume that you want to argue that El Pais is not as democratic as the conventional view would have us believe.

One way to effectively organize your argument would be to present the conventional view and then to provide the reader with your critical response to this view. So, in Paragraph A you would enumerate all the reasons that someone might consider El Pais highly democratic, while in Paragraph B you would refute these points. The transition that would establish the logical connection between these two key elements of your argument would indicate to the reader that the information in paragraph B contradicts the information in paragraph A. As a result, you might organize your argument, including the transition that links paragraph A with paragraph B, in the following manner:

Paragraph A: points that support the view that El Pais’s new government is very democratic.

Transition: Despite the previous arguments, there are many reasons to think that El Pais’s new government is not as democratic as typically believed.

Paragraph B: points that contradict the view that El Pais’s new government is very democratic.

In this case, the transition words “Despite the previous arguments,” suggest that the reader should not believe paragraph A and instead should consider the writer’s reasons for viewing El Pais’s democracy as suspect.

As the example suggests, transitions can help reinforce the underlying logic of your paper’s organization by providing the reader with essential information regarding the relationship between your ideas. In this way, transitions act as the glue that binds the components of your argument or discussion into a unified, coherent, and persuasive whole.

TYPES OF TRANSITIONS

Now that you have a general idea of how to go about developing effective transitions in your writing, let us briefly discuss the types of transitions your writing will use.

The types of transitions available to you are as diverse as the circumstances in which you need to use them. A transition can be a single word, a phrase, a sentence, or an entire paragraph. In each case, it functions the same way: First, the transition either directly summarizes the content of a preceding sentence, paragraph, or section or implies such a summary (by reminding the reader of what has come before). Then, it helps the reader anticipate or comprehend the new information that you wish to present.

1. Transitions between sections: Particularly in longer works, it may be necessary to include transitional paragraphs that summarize for the reader the information just covered and specify the relevance of this information to the discussion in the following section.
2. Transitions between paragraphs: If you have done a good job of arranging paragraphs so that the content of one leads logically to the next, the transition will highlight a relationship that already exists by summarizing the previous paragraph and suggesting something of the content of the paragraph that follows. A transition between paragraphs can be a word or two (however, for example, similarly), a phrase, or a sentence. Transitions can be at the end of the first paragraph, at the beginning of the second paragraph, or in both places.
3. Transitions within paragraphs: As with transitions between sections and paragraphs, transitions within paragraphs act as cues by helping readers to anticipate what is coming before they read it. Within paragraphs, transitions tend to be single words or short phrases.

TRANSITIONAL EXPRESSIONS

Effectively constructing each transition often depends upon your ability to identify words or phrases that will indicate for the reader the kind of logical relationships you want to convey. The table below should make it easier for you to find these words or phrases. Whenever you have trouble finding a word, phrase, or sentence to serve as an effective transition, refer to the information in the table for assistance. Look in the left column of the table for the kind of logical relationship you are trying to express. Then look in the right column of the table for examples of words or phrases that express this logical relationship.

Keep in mind that each of these words or phrases may have a slightly different meaning. Consult a dictionary or writer's handbook if you are unsure of the exact meaning of a word or phrase.

LOGICAL RELATIONSHIP	TRANSITIONAL EXPRESSION
Similarity	also, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, similarly
Exception/Contrast	but, however, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet
Sequence/Order	first, second, third, ... next, then, finally
Time	after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then
Example	for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate
Emphasis	even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly
Place/Position	above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there
Cause and Effect	accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus
Additional Support or Evidence	further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then
Conclusion/Summary	finally, in a word, in brief, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, to sum up, in summary

Source: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/transitions/>

There are other transition signals used to connect ideas from one paragraph to another:

Transition Signals for Logical Division of Ideas

Transition signals for logical division essays include many that you may already know.

Transition Words and Phrases	
<p>first, first of all, second, third, etc. next, last, finally also, in addition, moreover, furthermore</p>	<p>First, excessive government spending can lead to inflation.</p> <p>In addition, unrestrained consumer borrowing can cause inflationary tendencies.</p> <p>Finally, an increase in the supply of paper money gives rise to inflation.</p>

Coordinators	
<p>and both . . . and not only . . . but also</p>	<p>Both an increase in the supply of paper money and unrestrained consumer borrowing can cause inflationary tendencies.</p> <p>To lose weight, one must not only exercise regularly but also eat wisely.</p>
Others	
<p>the <i>first cause, reason, factor</i>, etc. the/a <i>second problem, result, advantage</i>, etc. one <i>problem, reason, important factor</i>, etc. another <i>way, reason, disadvantage</i>, etc. an <i>additional problem, result</i>, etc. in <i>addition to math and science</i>, . . .</p>	<p>A second cause is an increase in the supply of paper money.</p> <p>Regular exercise is one way to get fit and lose weight.</p> <p>In addition to government spending, unrestrained consumer borrowing can cause inflationary tendencies.</p>

PRACTICE

Transition Signals between Paragraphs

Linking paragraphs with transitions helps your reader see how the subtopics are related. Link one paragraph to the next by adding a transition to the topic sentence of the second paragraph. This transition may be a single word, a phrase, or a dependent clause that repeats or summarizes the main idea in the preceding paragraph.

Study the following model, and notice how the paragraphs are linked.

MODEL

Paragraph Transitions

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

Aggressive Drivers

The number of vehicles on freeways and streets is growing at an alarming rate. This increase of motor vehicles is creating hazardous conditions. Moreover, drivers are in such a rush to get to their destinations that many become angry or impatient with other motorists who are too slow or who are in their way. Aggressive drivers react foolishly toward others in several dangerous ways.

TRANSITION WORDS

One way an angry driver may react is to cut off¹ another motorist.
(+ supporting sentences) _____

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

TRANSITION WORDS

Another way is to tailgate² the other car. (+ supporting sentences)

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

TRANSITION PHRASE

In addition to cutting off and tailgating other cars, aggressive drivers often use rude language or gestures to show their anger. (+ supporting sentences)

BODY PARAGRAPH 4

TRANSITION CLAUSE

Although law enforcement authorities warn motorists against aggressive driving, the number who act out their angry impulses has not declined. (+ supporting sentences)

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

To conclude, aggressive drivers are endangering everyone because they create hazardous conditions by acting and driving foolishly. They should control their anger and learn to drive safely. After all, the lives they save could be their own.

¹cut off: drive in front of

²tailgate: drive closely behind or on the tail of another car

Source: OSHIMA, A.; HOGUE, A. Writing Academic English. 4th ed. White Plains, NY: Pearson Longman, 2006.



Source: <https://billvan61.files.wordpress.com>

Use the Introductory Paragraph you wrote in Class 4 and write two body paragraphs as a follow-up:



SUMMARY

Transitional signals are important devices in body paragraphs because they indicate how your ideas will progress in the essay.

Besides remembering and/or learning new transitional expressions, you could practise your writing, this turn, regarding body paragraphs.

You know now how to write an introductory as well as a body paragraph. Thus, the next two classes will be addressed to concluding paragraph.



SELF-EVALUATION

Did I increase my knowledge related to Body Paragraph?

Am I able to identify and use transitional expressions in body paragraphs?



NEXT CLASS

Next class, the focus of your studies will be on Concluding Paragraph. See ya!

REFERENCES

OSHIMA, A.; HOGUE, A. **Writing Academic English**. 4th ed. White Plains, NY: Pearson Longman, 2006.

SOUZA, Adriana Grade Fiori et al. **Leitura em língua inglesa: uma abordagem instrumental**. São Paulo: Disal, 2005.

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lc/lc_resources/academic-writing/

http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/grammar_for_academic_writing_ism.pdf