

Transition Words Guide for Cause and Effect Essays

This reference sheet organizes common **cause-and-effect transition words** by function and shows how to use them correctly in academic writing. Use these transitions to clearly signal relationships between ideas and strengthen logical flow.

1. Cause Indicators

Use these transitions to explain why something happens.

Common cause transitions:

- because
- since
- due to
- owing to
- stems from
- arises from
- is caused by
- originates from
- results from

Usage examples:

- *Student performance declined **because** study time decreased.*
 - *Sleep deprivation increased **due to** excessive screen time.*
 - *Many urban problems **stem from** unequal access to resources.*
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2. Effect Indicators

Use these transitions to show what happens as a result of a cause.

Common effect transitions:

- therefore
- consequently
- thus
- as a result
- leads to
- results in
- produces
- causes

- brings about

Usage examples:

- *Students multitask during lectures; **therefore**, comprehension suffers.*
 - *Increased stress **results in** lower academic motivation.*
 - *Lack of regulation **leads to** widespread environmental damage.*
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3. Sequential Transitions

Use these transitions to show the order of causes and effects, especially in chain structure essays.

Common sequential transitions:

- first
- initially
- next
- then
- subsequently
- afterward
- finally

Usage examples:

- *First, students experience information overload; **then**, attention levels decline.*
 - *Economic pressure rises, and **subsequently**, consumer spending decreases.*
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4. Contrast Transitions

Use these transitions to acknowledge opposing ideas, limitations, or alternative explanations.

Common contrast transitions:

- however
- although
- despite
- nevertheless
- on the other hand
- in contrast
- whereas

Usage examples:

- ***Although** social media offers connection, it can increase feelings of isolation.*
 - *The policy reduced costs; **however**, it also lowered service quality.*
 - ***Despite** technological growth, access remains unequal.*
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5. Tips for Effective Use

- Vary transition words to avoid repetition.
- Place transitions at the beginning of sentences or between clauses for clarity.
- Ensure each transition accurately reflects the relationship between ideas.
- Use contrast transitions to demonstrate critical thinking and depth of analysis.