

Transition Words

Addition words tell us that an author is presenting two or more ideas in a list of items. These words introduce ideas that are first in a list or ideas that add to items already mentioned. Here are some common addition words:

one	first of all	in addition	furthermore
first	also	next	last of all
second	another	moreover	finally

Time words tell us *when* something happened in relation to something else. Here are some common time words:

first	before	when	previously
next	during	then	at present
often	after	now	soon
as	until	later	

Contrast words show that two things *are different* in one or more ways. They also inform us when something is going to *be different* from what we might expect. Here are some common contrast words:

but or preferred them to	in contrast	on the other hand	hardly
however	instead	even though or though	where as
yet	still	although	in no way
despite	unlike	difference	rather than

Illustration words point out that one or more examples are being used to explain a given idea. They tell us that a specific detail is being provided as *an example*. Here are some common illustration words:

for example	to illustrate	such as
example	illustration	including
for instance	once	

Cause-and-effect words show that the author is discussing the reason or reasons why something happened. They indicate that one event caused another to happen or that a certain reason is behind some circumstance. Here are some common cause-and-effect words.

because	cause	result	therefore
because of	caused	result in	so
since	effects	reason	thus
leads to	as a result	if...then	