

## Transitions

There are two places where you will need to use transitions: **within paragraphs** and **between paragraphs**.

Look at this paragraph:

The Japanese can develop highly profitable products because their labor is technologically oriented. Many Japanese work as engineers, technicians, or scientists, or some other occupation related to technology and production. Many Japanese students choose to major in high-tech fields instead of the humanities. The United States is less materialistic than Japan. Many college students pursue their dreams instead of profits, majoring in the fine arts, history and philosophy. Many Americans work in the areas of humanities and social work. Only a small percentage of the Japanese population work in those areas.

Look at the paragraph with transitions added:

The Japanese can develop highly profitable products because their labor is technologically oriented. **For example**, many Japanese work as engineers, technicians, or scientists, or some other occupation related to technology and production. **Moreover**, many Japanese students choose to major in high-tech fields instead of the humanities. **In comparison**, the United States is less materialistic than Japan. Many college students pursue their dreams instead of profits, majoring in the fine arts, history and philosophy. **In addition**, many Americans work in the areas of humanities and social work. **By contrast**, only a small percentage of the Japanese population work in those areas.

Using transitions appropriately can make a big difference in making a paragraph easy to follow.

## Placement of transitions

1. At the beginning of a sentence, with a comma:

The boat sank. **However**, the crew survived.

2. Between sentences, with a semicolon and comma:

The boat sank; **however**, the crew survived.

3. Within the sentences, with two commas:

The boat sank. The crew, **however**, survived.

# Common Transitions

## Giving Examples

For example  
An example of this

For instance  
To illustrate

## Enumerating/Sequence      Summary

First, second(ly), third(ly)  
Finally  
Lastly

In conclusion  
In summary  
To conclude  
To summarize  
On the whole

## Adding information

Furthermore  
Moreover  
In addition

## Focusing information/emphasis

Indeed  
In fact  
Again  
Surely

## Contrasting

However  
In contrast,  
By contrast  
On the other hand  
Unlike

Nonetheless  
Nevertheless  
Still

## Comparison

Like X, Y is....  
Similarly  
Likewise  
In the same way

## Cause/Effect

Consequently  
As a consequence  
For this reason  
As a result  
Hence  
Thus  
Therefore

Watch out:      On the contrary (meaning):  
MIT is not easy. **On the contrary**, studying here is extremely demanding.

Not only....but also (placement - smallest grammatically equal unit)  
Clinton disappointed **not only** the voters **but also** his family.