

## 111 Recognizing Signal Words and Transitions

### EMPHASIS WORDS

Among the most valuable signals for readers are emphasis words. They directly signal that a particular idea or detail is especially important. Think of such words as red flags that the author is using to make sure readers pay attention to an idea. Here are some typical words showing emphasis.

important to note	most noteworthy	should be noted
a significant factor	the chief factor	a central issue
remember that	a major event	a distinctive quality
a primary concern	the chief outcome	pay particular attention to
the most substantial issue	especially relevant	the main value
the principal item	a key feature	above all
especially valuable	a vital force	most of all

### ADDITION WORDS

Addition words tell readers that the writer's thought is going to continue in the same direction. He or she is going to add on more details or points of the same kind. Here are some addition words.

also	first of all	last of all	and
another	for one thing	likewise	second
finally	furthermore	moreover	the third reason
first	in addition	next	

### CHANGE-OF-DIRECTION WORDS

Change-of-direction words prepare readers for a change in the direction of the writer's thoughts. They suggest that the writer will probably reverse or modify a previous statement. Here are examples of change-of-direction words.

but	yet	otherwise	on the other hand
however	instead	still	conversely
in contrast	even though	on the contrary	nevertheless

## ILLUSTRATION WORDS

Illustration words signal that an example or illustration will be given to make an idea clear. The following words are examples of illustration words.

for example  
to illustrate

specifically  
once

for instance  
such as

## CONCLUSION WORDS

Conclusion words guide the reader to expect the writer's last and possibly most important point within a paragraph or larger unit of thought. Here are some examples of conclusion words.

therefore  
finally

in conclusion  
consequently

as a result  
hence

in summary  
last of all

## PARAGRAPH SKILLS - TRANSITION WORDS AND PHRASES

### To add one similar thought to another:

likewise  
as well as

furthermore  
again

and  
similarly

### To add and amplify:

moreover  
in addition

again  
also

further  
furthermore

### To contrast ideas:

even though  
however

but  
in contrast

notwithstanding

### To show differences:

on the other hand  
by contrast

though  
whereas

yet

**To emphasize:**

certainly  
in fact  
surely  
undoubtedly

truly  
above all  
most importantly  
indeed

especially  
without a doubt

**To show cause and effect:**

therefore  
thus  
as a result  
consequently

since  
otherwise  
in short  
hence

accordingly  
because

**To illustrate and foreshadow an example:**

incidentally  
namely  
for example

in fact  
in other words  
indeed

such as  
specifically  
for instance

**To compare ideas and show likeness:**

likewise  
in the same way

at the same time  
similarly

resembling

**To restate or repeat:**

in other words  
once again

again  
that is

to repeat  
to put it differently

**To summarize, show consequences, or results:**

to conclude  
thus  
then

finally  
consequently  
in other words

accordingly  
for that reason  
as a result

**To show conclusion:**

even though  
granted  
of course

after all  
surely  
I admit

I concede  
certainly  
no doubt