

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	truly	especially
in fact	above all	without a doubt
surely	most importantly	
undoubtedly	indeed	

To show cause and effect:

therefore	since	accordingly
thus	otherwise	because
as a result	in short	
consequently	hence	

To illustrate and foreshadow an example:

incidentally	in fact	such as
namely	in other words	specifically
for example	indeed	for instance

To compare ideas and show likeness:

likewise	at the same time	resembling
in the same way	similarly	

To restate or repeat:

in other words	again	to repeat
once again	that is	to put it differently

To summarize, show consequences, or results:

to conclude	finally	accordingly
thus	consequently	for that reason
then	in other words	as a result

To show conclusion:

even though	after all	I concede
granted	surely	certainly
of course	I admit	no doubt