



# Using Transitions

In our sample paragraph about eating a healthful breakfast, notice how the series of ideas flow together. They do so with the help of *transitions*. There are four that do the work: *to begin with*, *not only*, *finally*, and *so*. Can you find them? Can you see how such transitions help link the ideas so that they relate to one another?

Now try reading the paragraphs without the transitions. It sounds strange, doesn't it? Without effective transitions, your paragraphs will come across as disconnected, as a series of facts without any relationship. Transitions link ideas so that they relate to one another; they provide comparison and contrast, and they strengthen and weaken ideas.

Keep in mind that you need transitions between paragraphs, too. Notice the transitions used in the sample essays on pages 39 and 41.

In some cases, transitions are single words. Other times they consist of more than one word, in which case they are called *transitional phrases*.

Study the list of transitions below.

above	finally	moreover
according to	first, second . . .	nevertheless
after	for example	next
also	for instance	obviously
although	furthermore	of course
another	however	similarly
because	in addition to	since
beside(s)	in fact	therefore
clearly	last	while
consequently	meanwhile	yet

As you can see, transitions serve all sorts of purposes. Once you get accustomed to using them, they will become second nature, and you will achieve a more fluid writing style.

*Note:* When transitions begin a sentence, they often require the use of a comma.

*There is a lot left to be done. **For example**, we have to clean the house.*

*Note:* Transitions and transitional phrases don't always have to appear at the beginning of a sentence.

*It is, **however**, important to vote when you turn eighteen.*



# Using Transitions *(cont.)*

## Transitions Exercise

Add appropriate transitions to the following essay. You can draw from the list on page 24, or you may use others.

### Use Your Head

It is extremely important for motorcyclists to wear helmets. \_\_\_\_\_ if you crash on your motorcycle, chances are that a helmet could help save your life, so it makes sense to wear one. \_\_\_\_\_ taxpayers often have to help pay the cost of treating riders with serious head injuries, injuries that could have been avoided with the use of a helmet. \_\_\_\_\_ innocent passengers, oftentimes children, are injured. Wearing a helmet, \_\_\_\_\_, makes absolute sense if you are riding a motorcycle.

\_\_\_\_\_, helmets should be used while riding a bicycle. Statistics show, \_\_\_\_\_, that bike riders are ten times more likely to suffer serious injury if they don't wear a helmet. \_\_\_\_\_, helmet laws in our town require that only kids must wear helmets while riding a bike. This makes no sense. \_\_\_\_\_, adults should model sensible behavior and wear helmets, too.

\_\_\_\_\_, helmets should be worn by skateboarders. There are three reasons for this: \_\_\_\_\_, skaters often practice their tricks on the street or in parking lots, where they can get hit by a car. \_\_\_\_\_, while skaters don't ride as fast as bikers or motorcycle riders, they can have pretty bad wipe-outs. Just last week a friend of mine went into the hospital with a concussion from a skating accident. \_\_\_\_\_, older skaters are role models for all the ten-year-olds out there. My little sister is already trying 360s. Because I wear a helmet, so does she.

\_\_\_\_\_, helmets make sense. Whether you're riding the freeway on your motorcycle, peddling off on your bicycle, or spinning on your skateboard, you should use your head and wear a helmet!