Transitions

What are transitions?
Transitions are the glue that holds your paragraph together. They bridge the gaps between sentences and ideas. Transitions are words or phrases that show the relationship between your sentences.

Why do I need transitions?
Without transitions, your paragraph may be just a collection of seemingly unrelated sentences.

Consider this example:

*Jason got a second job. He couldn’t afford comic books. He can buy them every month. He can get the back issues he needs.*

That doesn’t make much sense, does it?

Look at this same example, fortified with transitions:

*Jason got a second job. Before, he couldn’t afford comic books. Now, he can buy them every month. Furthermore, he can get the back issues that he needed.*

This example makes much more sense doesn’t it?
What are the different types of transitions’?

Transitions of time:
First, next, then, before, after, meanwhile, when, during

Transitions of location:
Nearby, above, below, beside, in front, behind

Transitions of comparison and contrast:
Similarly, also, likewise, but, however, rather, instead

Transitions of cause/effect:
If, then, so, therefore, thus, since, consequently

Transitions of summary or conclusion:
In conclusion, in summary, in other words, therefore

Transitions of addition:
And, also, furthermore, in addition, too

There are many more, this is a partial list to get you started!

More facts about transitions
When using a transitional word of phrase at the beginning of a sentence, always separate the phrase from the rest of the sentence with a comma. This word or group of words is called an introductory phrase.

For example:
First, Kurt listened to the new additions to his record collection.

Most of these transitional words can be used in phrases.

Example:
Since his favorite computer was occupied, Ken had to use another computer.

When a transition is used in a phrase, as above, treat the whole phrase as a transition.
When a transition is used in the middle of a sentence, set it off with commas.

Example:
*Jason loves Saturday Night Live. Krista, however, hates the show.*

When starting an independent clause with a transition, be sure to end the previous clause with a period to avoid a **comma splice.**

Example:
*John and Terri’s baby had a complicated delivery. However, she is fine now.*

You could also use a semi-colon, instead of a period, to end the first clause.

Example:
*Dan was going to move to Florida; however, the hurricanes delayed his plans.*

**Sources**
