

Logical Transitions & Signal Words

Use logical transitions and signal words, like those in the following chart, to provide your lectures with structure and enable students to more easily take and organize their notes.

Category	Description	Examples
Addition	Words that signal the author is making multiple points of the same kind	also, in addition, another, next, first, second, third, finally, lastly, likewise, moreover, and furthermore
Cause-and-Effect	Words that indicate the author is about to address the results or effects	because, since, consequently, therefore, thus, as a result, so that, and if . . . then
Comparison	Words that point out a likeness between two ideas	like, likewise, similarly, equally, alike, just as, and in the same way
Contrast	Words that highlight a change in direction or a difference between two ideas	but, yet, still, however, in contrast, on the contrary, on the other hand, otherwise, conversely, although, and even though
Emphasis	Words that tell the reader to pay close attention to a particular idea	most of all, above all, a primary concern, a significant factor, a major event, a principal item, a key feature, a distinctive quality, a central issue, in particular, and especially valuable, important, vital, and relevant
Illustration	Words that signal the author is giving one or more examples to clarify a general point	for example, for instance, to illustrate, specifically, like, and such as