Transitions

Transitions help readers move from thought to thought—from sentence to sentence, paragraph to paragraph. You are likely to use a number of transitions as you draft; when you're editing, you should make a point of checking transitions. Here are some common ones:

- **To signal causes and effects:** accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, hence, so, then, therefore, thus

- **To signal comparisons:** also, in the same way, like, likewise, similarly

- **To signal changes in direction or exceptions:** although, but, even though, however, in contrast, instead, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the contrary, on the one hand . . . on the other hand, still, yet

- **To signal examples:** for example, for instance, indeed, in fact, such as

- **To signal sequences or similarities:** again; also; and; and then; besides; finally; furthermore; last; moreover; next; too; first, second, third, etc.

- **To signal time relations:** after, as soon as, at first, at the same time, before, eventually, finally, immediately, later, meanwhile, next, simultaneously, so far, soon, then, thereafter

- **To signal a summary or conclusion:** as a result, as we have seen, finally, in a word, in any event, in brief, in conclusion, in other words, in short, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, therefore, thus, to summarize