

## Formality Levels for Transition Words and Expressions

Meaning	Basic Form for Informal and Formal Use	More Formal	Most Formal
ADDITION	<i>also</i> <i>first, second, etc.</i>	<i>additionally</i> <i>besides</i> <i>further</i> <i>furthermore</i> <i>in addition</i> <i>last but not least</i> <i>next</i> <i>not only . . . but</i> <i>also</i> <i>too</i>	<i>equally important</i> <i>moreover</i> <i>similarly</i>
CAUSE-EFFECT	<i>then</i> <i>therefore</i>	<i>as a result</i> <i>for this reason</i> <i>thus</i>	<i>accordingly</i> <i>as a consequence</i> <i>consequently</i> <i>hence</i>
COMPARISON	<i>also</i> <i>like</i> <i>too</i>	<i>as well as</i> <i>both . . . and</i> <i>compared to</i> <i>in the same way</i> <i>likewise</i> <i>neither . . . nor</i>	<i>by comparison</i> <i>in common with</i> <i>similarly</i> <i>in like manner</i>
CONTRAST	<i>however</i>	<i>instead</i> <i>nevertheless</i> <i>on the other hand</i>	<i>conversely</i> <i>in contrast to</i> <i>in opposition to</i> <i>on the contrary</i> <i>otherwise</i> <i>still</i> <i>whereas</i>
EXAMPLE	<i>for example</i>	<i>for instance</i> <i>in other words</i>	<i>as an example</i> <i>as an illustration</i> <i>to exemplify</i>
SUMMARY— CONCLUSION	<i>finally</i> <i>therefore</i>	<i>after all</i> <i>all in all</i> <i>at last</i> <i>briefly</i> <i>consequently</i> <i>last</i> <i>on the whole</i> <i>thus</i>	<i>accordingly</i> <i>as a consequence</i> <i>in brief</i> <i>in closing</i> <i>in conclusion</i> <i>in short</i> <i>in sum</i> <i>in summary</i> <i>to conclude</i> <i>to summarize</i>

<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Basic Form for Informal and Formal Use</b>	<b>More Formal</b>	<b>Most Formal</b>
<b>TIME</b>	<i>after a while</i> <i>after that</i> <i>also</i> <i>at last</i> <i>currently</i> <i>earlier</i> <i>eventually</i> <i>finally</i> <i>first, second, etc.</i> <i>in the future</i> <i>in the past</i> <i>last</i> <i>next</i> <i>now</i>	<i>afterward</i> <i>at the same time</i> <i>formerly</i> <i>immediately</i> <i>in the meantime</i> <i>later</i>	<i>concurrently</i> <i>previously</i> <i>simultaneously</i> <i>subsequently</i>

Taken from:

Byrd, P. and B. Benson (2004) *Problem/Solution. A Reference for ESL Writers*.  
 Boston: Heinle & Heinle Publishers.