

Transitions are the icing in the cake that is your paragraph. It looks good and it tastes good to the reader (er, I mean, eater???). Sentence variation is the yummy unseen sugar that makes your brain crave more.

# Transition Exercise

*Identify the* [*transitions*](Big%20List%20of%20transitions.docx) *(see RG 144) in the following paragraph:*

Beginning college writers often feel that essays are either personal in nature or completely impersonal. And, in fact, this has been the traditional model: creative, expressive writing vs. formal, objective academic writing. However, a current trend in composition studies is to emphasize the inherent subjectivity involved in writing. This stance, which is clearly evident in the work of professional writers of all sorts, blends exposition and narrative. Thus, by combining these two modes of writing, college composition can become more inviting and more natural, more like something students would want to do. Such comfort does not, however, mean that students are left alone to write whatever they choose. There are still guidelines and parameters, just different ones.

1. **Sentence Variation Exercise** *(Begin these sentences in different ways as demonstrated on the* [*Xerox with the woman pointing her finger*](../PDFs/sentence%20variation.%20a%20to%20z.pdf.pdf) *or see RG Ch 20)*

Bees buzz loudly in the meadow. The summer sun shone hot and bright. A breeze rippled the leaves of the elm tree. A mockingbird was on the highest branch singing a song. Every corner felt alive with color. The cologne of flowers overwhelmed my senses with each breath. I have never been anywhere else that made me feel more alive than the day I spent proposing to my wife in that meadow on the south side of the river.

1. **Sentence Variation Exercise** *(see RG 151 for an example of a paragraph with variation)*

Scientists neglect whistling as a talent. Amateurs do not neglect it. There are whistling contests all over the United States. Accomplished whistlers whistle classical music, opera, and even jazz. Many whistlers choose popular rock and roll songs. People whistle very differently. Some use their throat. Other people use their hands or fingers to produce the sounds. These sounds resemble the flute.

Whistling has several advantages. One advantage is that it is a happy sound. Whistlers never lose their instrument. Their instrument does not need to be cleaned or repaired. their instrument costs nothing. It is easily transported compared to a boson or piano. Learning how to whistle is hard to teach and to explain to someone who does not know how to whistle. One either learns it at a young age or not at all.

# 4. Transition Exercise

*Imagine these 2 paragraphs are part of a larger essay on Wendy’s.*

1. *Insert* [*transitional words*](Big%20List%20of%20transitions.docx) *& phrases within the FIRST PARAGRAPH to make it more cohesive & less choppy. See pg 141 in RG for a complete list. You may change punctuation as needed.*
2. *Provide a smooth transition sentence to begin the SECOND PARAGRAPH and smoothly connect it to the preceding paragraph. “Also” doesn’t cut it. Neither does the more grammatically correct “In addition…” (Notice the good transition that opens the 1st paragraph).*

Wendy’s gets a bad rap. There are a lot of negative statistics. I will continue to frequent Wendy’s. My favorite is located in the Student Union building. The fries are excellent. They are rarely too greasy. They are usually fresh and crispy. They aren’t too crispy. The burgers are sizzling hot. The warmth of the burger is accentuated by the coolness of the mayonnaise & other condiments. A Frosty makes a good dessert. Dinner at Wendy’s is not healthy. The food tastes great.

Also, Wendy’s has great service. I particularly appreciate the lightening-fast finger work of the Wendy’s cashier as he punches students’ orders into the magic box. He quickly enters my order. The other Wendy’s employees are professional & courteous. They too acknowledge the need to work quickly & effectively. For example, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Their service reflects such an understanding.