

Transitions

Transitions in your essay are like road signs for readers. Readers use transitional words and phrases to follow your ideas to the conclusion.

From Andrea to Wendy: How Hurricanes Get Their Names

In 2004, several hurricanes were brewing in the Atlantic Ocean. Thanks to the system of naming hurricanes, meteorologists and the public were able to tell the storms apart. That system of naming hurricanes has changed over the years. But if a hurricane is never named after you, don't be surprised. With very few changes, the list is recycled every six years.

People have been naming hurricanes for hundreds of years. In fact, hurricanes in the West Indies were the first to receive names. The storms were named for the saint's day on which they occurred. For instance, the first hurricane San Felipe struck Puerto Rico on September 13, 1876. Likewise, the second hurricane San Felipe struck the island on September 13, 1928. Later, Australian meteorologist, Clement Wragge, began giving women's names to hurricanes in the late 1800s. The use of women's names became official in this country when the United States National Weather Service adopted the idea in 1953. Then the system changed in 1979 when both men's and women's names appeared on the list of hurricane names.

Transitions are words and phrases that connect the ideas in an essay.

- ▲ Transitions help link the sentences within a paragraph.
- ▲ Transitions help connect the paragraphs in an essay.
- ▲ You can use transitions to show time, place, and sequence.
- ▲ You can use transitions to compare and contrast and to show cause and effect.
- ▲ You can use transitions to present examples and additional information.
- ▲ You can use transitions to emphasize, summarize, and conclude.
- ▲ Finally, to make a transition between paragraphs, you can also repeat a key word, phrase, or idea from the previous paragraphs.

Do the first two paragraphs of the above essay seem familiar to you? Some of the sentences have changed a little since you last read it. Can you find the transitions that have been added to the essay?