

TRANSITIONAL WORDS AND PHRASES

SHOWING RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN AND BETWEEN SENTENCES

Transitional words and phrases connect and relate ideas, sentences, and paragraphs. They assist in the logical flow of ideas as they signal the relationship between sentences and paragraphs. In prose, the material is supported and conditioned not only by the ordering of the material (its position) but by connectives which signal order, relationship and movement.

Some of the more commonly used connectives are listed below. Note especially how these **connections function to develop, relate, connect and move ideas.**

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|--|---|
| 1. To signal <u>addition</u> of ideas | and, also, besides, further, furthermore, too, moreover, in addition, then, of equal importance, equally important, another |
| 2. To signal <u>time</u> | next, afterward, finally, later, last, lastly, at last, now, subsequently, then, when, soon, thereafter, after a short time, the next week (month, day, etc.), a minute later, in the meantime, meanwhile, on the following day, at length, ultimately, presently |
| 3. To signal <u>order</u> or <u>sequence</u> | first, second, (etc.), finally, hence, next, then, from here on, to begin with, last of all, after, before, as soon as, in the end, gradually |
| 4. To signify <u>space</u> and <u>place</u> | above, behind, below, beyond, here, there, to the right (left), nearby, opposite, on the other side, in the background, directly ahead, along the wall, as you turn right, at the tip, across the hall, at this point, adjacent to |
| 5. To signal an <u>example</u> | for example, to illustrate, for instance, to be specific, such as, moreover, furthermore, just as important, similarly, in the same way |
| 6. To show <u>results</u> | as a result, hence, so, accordingly, as a consequence, consequently, thus, since, therefore, for this reason, because of this |
| 7. To signal <u>purpose</u> | to this end, for this purpose, with this in mind, for this reason, for these reasons |
| 8. To signal <u>comparisons</u> | like, in the same (like) manner or way, similarly |
| 9. To indicate <u>contrast</u> | but, in contrast, conversely, however, still, nevertheless, nonetheless, yet, and yet, on the other hand, of course, on the contrary, or, in spite of this, actually, a year ago, now, notwithstanding, for all that, strangely enough, ironically |
| 10. To signal <u>alternatives</u> , <u>exceptions</u> , and <u>objections</u> | although, though, while, despite, to be sure, it is true, true, I grant, granted, I admit, admittedly, doubtless, I concede, regardless |
| 11. To <u>dispute</u> | it isn't true that, people are wrong who say that, deny that, be that as it may, by the same token, no doubt, we often hear it said, many people claim, many people suppose, it used to be thought, in any case |
| 12. To <u>intensify</u> | above all, first and foremost, importantly, again, to be sure, indeed, in fact, as a matter of fact, as I have said, as has been noted |
| 13. To <u>summarize</u> or <u>repeat</u> | in summary, to sum up, to repeat, briefly, in short, finally, on the whole, therefore, as I have said, in conclusion, as you can see |

Additionally, **pronouns** act as connectives when they are used to refer to a noun in the preceding sentences. Repetition of key words and phrases and the use of **synonyms** which echo important words both serve to establish connections with previous sentences.

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EXERCISE I. **Circle the letter that correctly identifies the nature of the underlined transition in each of the following sentences.**

1. A water main downtown broke this morning, so several businesses had no water for hours.
 - a. addition
 - b. time
 - c. comparison
 - d. cause and effect

2. Even though most Americans are primarily concerned about AIDS as it exists in the U.S., it should be remembered that it is now nearly a worldwide disease.
 - a. addition
 - b. time
 - c. contrast
 - d. comparison

3. Larry will probably be a late bloomer socially, just like his older brothers.
 - a. time
 - b. contrast
 - c. comparison
 - d. cause and effect

4. There are ways you can make boring tasks more pleasant. For instance, bring a portable radio and listen to music on the earphones while you work.
 - a. contrast
 - b. comparison
 - c. illustration/example
 - d. cause and effect

5. The lazy checkout clerk forced the six-pack of cola into the bottom of the bag, tearing it. Then she shrugged her shoulders and said, "I guess you'll have to carry the bag from the bottom."
 - a. time
 - b. contrast
 - c. comparison
 - d. illustration/example

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6. Science-fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke correctly predicted that satellites would be used for communication. Moreover, in 1947 he correctly predicted that 1959 would be the year the first rocket to the moon was launched.
- addition
 - time
 - contrast
 - cause and effect
7. Some people in New Jersey built their houses very close to the shoreline. Consequently, they have had to spend a lot of money trying to protect their property from the sea.
- addition
 - contrast
 - illustration/example
 - cause and effect
8. Running can make people more aware of their physical surroundings, such as the scent of honeysuckle or the changing moods of the trees.
- addition
 - contrast
 - illustration/example
 - cause and effect
9. Residents complain bitterly about potholes in the streets and sloppy trash pick-up, yet these same people resist paying higher taxes for the improvement of these services.
- time
 - contrast
 - comparison
 - illustration/example
10. Telephone interviewing allows for a large number of responses in a short time and at relatively low cost. Moreover, the method permits interviewers to reach respondents at specific times of the day; this is an important consideration in the study of radio and TV listening habits.
- addition
 - time
 - contrast
 - comparison

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EXERCISE II. **Circle the letter of the word that correctly identifies the appropriate transition word or phrase. Then underline the kind of transition you have used.**

1. _____ the invention of television, people probably spent more of their leisure time reading.
- a. Nevertheless
 - b. Because
 - c. Before

The transition word indicates: addition cause and effect time

2. If you're having company for dinner, try to get as much done in advance as possible. _____, set the table the day before.
- a. For instance
 - b. In contrast
 - c. Similarly

The transition word indicates: illustration/example comparison contrast

3. _____ I'm very allergic to flowers, my boyfriend bought a bouquet of roses.
- a. Until
 - b. Because
 - c. Even though

The transition word indicates: time contrast addition

4. My grandfather loves to say, "You're as nervous _____ a long-tailed cat in a roomful of rocking chairs."
- a. after
 - b. as
 - c. as a result

The transition word indicates: cause and effect time comparison

5. _____ Manny's car stereo was on full blast, I could see his lips moving, but I had no idea what he was saying.
- a. Moreover
 - b. Because
 - c. Just as

The transition word indicates: comparison addition cause and effect