

Transition Words

Transition words, also referred to as conjunctive adverbs, are found at the beginning of a sentence and create smooth flow from one sentence to the next. Transition words can be considered the glue that connects two related ideas. These words can be used to show time, make a comparison or contrast, demonstrate a cause and effect, make a conclusion, show sequence, or demonstrate similarity. Some common transition words are provided in the following box.

however	therefore	thus	furthermore
meanwhile	moreover	surprisingly	finally
subsequently	consequently	hence	accordingly

Connecting Two Sentences

Each of the above words can be used at the beginning of a sentence to transition smoothly from the previous sentence. You can refer to <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/574/02> for a comprehensive list of transition words. The following examples show transition words acting as the glue between two related sentences.

Bobby did not like going to the dentist. However, it was something that just had to be done.

The technicians tuned the guitars and prepared the microphones. Meanwhile, the musicians prepared themselves backstage.

Georgia's driving test was in five minutes, and this time she was more confident than ever. Finally, she would be able to get her driver's license.

As you may have noticed, the underlined transition word in each of the above examples is followed by a comma. Remember to use a comma to separate the transition word from the rest of the sentence.

Connecting Two Independent Clauses with a Semicolon

Transition words can also be used when connecting two independent clauses with a semicolon. An independent clause is a group of words that can stand alone as a complete sentence. To use transition words in this way, your sentence structure must follow this model:

Independent clause + semicolon + transition word + comma + independent clause.