

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.**

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