

Transition words are used in writing to show the way ideas are logically related in a sentence or paragraph. These words create a sequence from one idea to the next and help to organize writing. For example, thoughts can be connected by number (first, second, third, etc.) or similarity (similarly, alike, also). Without transition words, it is difficult to understand how two ideas are related.

Example: Fill in the missing values of the chart. Sort the columns. You should see a pattern.
Correction: **First**, fill in the missing values of the chart. **Then**, sort the columns. **In the end**, you should see a pattern.

There are multiple connections you can make using transition words:

Time (first, second, later, soon, all of a sudden, without delay, in the meantime)

- Used to show the order that events occurred.
i.e. **First**, I poured in half a cup of milk. **Second**, I added the sugar. **Third**, I blended the ingredients.
i.e2. **The movie doesn't start until 7pm. In the meantime**, I am going to finish my homework.

Opposition (unlike, on the contrary, on the other hand, in contrast, but)

- Used to show that two ideas are opposing
i.e. **My English teacher never gives any homework. On the other hand**, my math teacher gives homework every night.
i.e2. **Unlike high school**, there is a huge degree of freedom in college.

Agreement (similarly, equally, likewise, also, too, again, in addition)

- Used to show that two ideas are similar or related in some way
i.e. **I am going to pop some popcorn for the movie. In addition**, I will order some pizza.
i.e2. **The homework is a good study guide for the test. Equally**, you should review the slideshow from class.

Cause & Effect (as a result, then, therefore, consequently, because)

- Used to show that the result of one event was caused by another event/factor
i.e. **I scored very poorly on my first exam. As a result**, my GPA went down.
i.e2. **He took the dog for a walk because** class was cancelled this morning.

Conclusions (in conclusion, overall, altogether, in short, all in all)

- Used to sum up ideas and bring an end to thoughts
i.e. **The presentation was fairly long, but altogether** it was very informative.
i.e2. **The leaves are just beginning to change colors. The sun is out, but there is a slight breeze. All in all**, it is a beautiful fall day.

Location/Placement (there, here, next to, above)

- Used to show where the placement of an idea/object is, in relation to another.
i.e. **You cannot see the sunset from over there. Here**, you will have a perfect view.

Sample Transition Words:

again	in effect
also	for this reason
then	in that case
equally	hence
moreover	consequently
likewise	accordingly
comparatively	in the long run
correspondingly	for the most part
similarly	after all
furthermore	in fact
additionally	in summary
in addition	in conclusion
otherwise	in short
however	altogether
rather	overall
nevertheless	usually
nonetheless	all in all
although	obviously
instead	on the whole
whereas	in the meantime
despite	without delay
unlike	sooner or later
above all	in due time
in reality	immediately
after all	quickly
on the other hand	finally
on the contrary	instantly
due to	later
unless	last
while	eventually
because	in the background
since	in the distance
with this in mind	between
granted	amid
in other words	across
in this case	further on
for this reasons	first
notably	second
truly	third
chiefly	formerly
in fact	prior to
to demonstrate	to begin

Rewrite the following sentences by connecting them with the proper transitions:

1. After class I will study for an hour. I will get dinner with my friend.
2. Instead of reading the book, I watched the movie. I did poorly on the exam.
3. It appeared to be a sunny day out. It started to rain.
4. This whole time I thought you were coming with me. And you have other plans.
5. Turn on the heat, then pour in the brown sugar, then place the apples in.
6. The first season of the show received five-star reviews. Season two was not as good as the first.
7. Gas prices have gone up significantly, people are spending a lot less money.
8. The artist has improved a lot of her techniques over the last few years: she has come a long way.
9. Practice was really tough yesterday. I decided to get a massage this morning.
10. I see many potential downfalls to this plan; it could be worth the risk.
11. Consumers aren't satisfied that the new iPhone requires wireless headphones- the camera has improved significantly.
12. The employer was very impressed with the first candidate's resume, he was not hired.
13. I did not realize that the meeting time was changed. This caused me to miss the meeting.
14. There are many reasons you should go for a run. Fresh air is important for your physical and mental health.
15. The basketball game starts at 7pm and we should get to the court at 6:30pm.

Answer Key:

The following are suggested answers, although there are multiple answers to the previous questions. Correct answers properly insert transitions to logically connect statements.

1. After class I will study for an hour. Then, I will get dinner with my friend.
2. Instead of reading the book, I watched the movie. Consequently, I did poorly on the exam.
3. It appeared to be a sunny day out, but then it started to rain.
4. This whole time I thought you were coming with me. Meanwhile, you have other plans.
5. First, turn on the heat. Then, pour in the brown sugar. Finally, place the apples in.
6. The first season of the show received five-star reviews. In contrast, season two was not as good as the first.
7. Gas prices have gone up significantly. As a result, people are spending a lot less money.
8. The artist has improved a lot of her techniques over the last few years. Overall, she has come a long way.
9. Practice was really tough yesterday. Therefore, I decided to get a massage this morning.
10. I see many potential downfalls to this plan. On the contrary, it could be worth the risk.
11. Consumers aren't satisfied that the new iPhone requires wireless headphones, although the camera has improved significantly.
12. The employer was very impressed with the first candidate's resume; however he was not hired.
13. I did not realize that the meeting time was changed. As a result, I missed the meeting.
14. There are many reasons you should go for a run. For example, fresh air is important for your physical and mental health.
15. The basketball game starts at 7pm, therefore we should get to the court at 6:30pm.