



TRANSITIONS

Writing Support Desk



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How could we improve this paragraph?

Betty and Archie were friends. Betty wanted more. Veronica moved to town. Archie only had eyes for her. Betty was upset. She and Veronica became friends. Betty fell for Jughead. They solved several crimes together. They caught a murderer. Betty worried she had feelings for Archie.



How could we improve this paragraph?

At first, Betty and Archie were friends, but Betty wanted more. However, when Veronica moved to town, Archie only had eyes for her. Although Betty was upset, over time she and Veronica became friends. Later, Betty fell for Jughead, and they solved several crimes together. For example, they caught a murderer. Nevertheless, Betty worried she still had feelings for Archie.



TRANSITIONS

- establish logical connections between words, phrases, and paragraphs.
- can improve the flow of a piece of writing.
- can bridge from one idea to another.
- can help a reader understand how ideas relate.

TYPES OF TRANSITIONS



**adverbs/
adverbial
phrases**

**prepositions/
prepositional
phrases**

conjunctions

moreover
instead
likewise
nonetheless
thus
nevertheless
still
next
otherwise
then
indeed
however
incidentally
meanwhile
hence

ADVERBS/ ADVERBIAL PHRASES

- Modify verbs (or adjectives or other adverbs)
 - Typically start a sentence, followed by a comma
 - Ex. "Nevertheless, Betty worried..."
"At first, Betty and Archie..."

from for
in of
on at
by with
under over

PREPOSITIONS/ PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

- Come before (pre) a noun
- Highlight position of that noun to another noun
 - Ex. "In March of 2020..."
"During the Cold War..."
"At work..."
"For several reasons..."

CONJUNCTIONS

```
graph TD; A[CONJUNCTIONS] --- B[coordinating]; A --- C[subordinating]; A --- D[correlating]
```

coordinating

subordinating

correlating

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Give equal weight to ideas.

Are used to form *compound sentences* by combining *independent clauses*.

Are introduced with a comma.



COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

F: *For* (explains why)

A: *And* (addition)

N: *Nor* (excludes)

B: *But* (disagree/contrast)

O: *Or* (alternative)

Y: *Yet* (disagree/contrast)

S: *So* (consequence)



COMPOUND SENTENCE

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE #1

Lee prefers to watch soccer

,but

Amir thinks tennis is a more interesting sport.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE #2



COMPOUND SENTENCE

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE #1

Lee prefers to watch soccer

COORDINATING CONJUNCTION

,but

Amir thinks tennis is a more interesting sport.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE #2



SUBORDINATING

```
graph TD; A[SUBORDINATING] --> B[preceding]; A --> C[concluding]
```

preceding

concluding

PRECEDING



**If I miss the
bus, I will
be late for
work.**

CONCLUDING



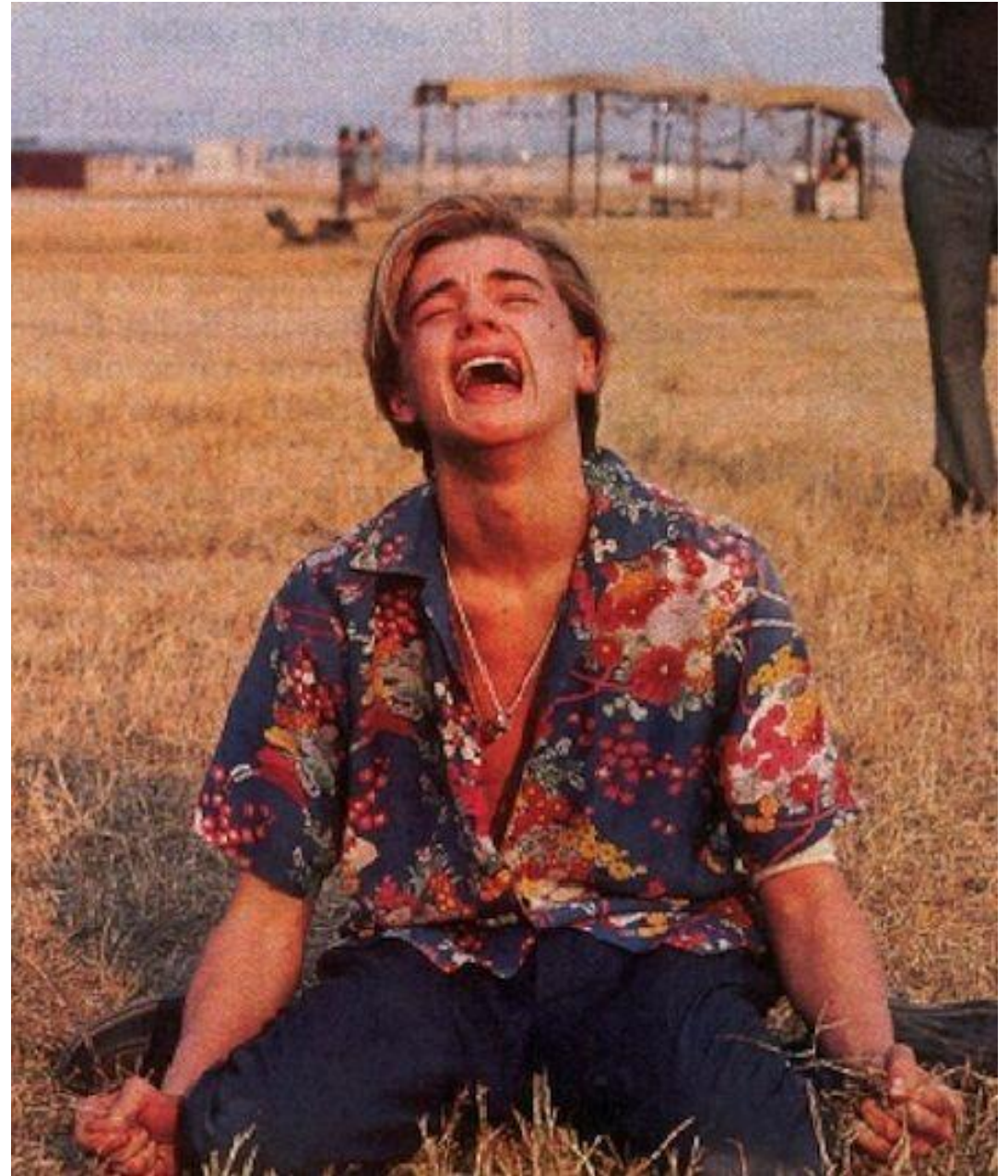
I will be late
for work
if I miss
the bus.

CORRELATING

- Either...or
- Neither...nor
- Whether...or
- Just as...so
- As...as
- No sooner...than

- Link pairs of words
and frame them
as equally
important

**"Either thou or
I, or both,
must go with
him."
- Romeo**



FUNCTIONS OF TRANSITIONS



sequential
relationships

temporal
relationships

spatial
relationships

logical
relationships

SEQUENTIAL

For example, for instance, first, firstly...

Secondly, third, then...

Finally, at last, lastly, now, eventually...

SEQUENTIAL

First, the researchers selected participants. **Second**, they surveyed them. **Then**, they calculated the results. **Finally**, they published their report.

TEMPORAL

Before, prior to, preceding, in advance of, by...

During, while, at the same time, meanwhile, as...

Later, afterwards, next, then, subsequently...

TEMPORAL

Before starting her paper, she read the instructions. **While** writing, she took a few breaks. **Later**, she printed the finished copy.

SPATIAL

Above, over, overhead, beyond, on top of...

Below, under, beneath, underneath...

Beside, next to, alongside, behind, in, within...

SPATIAL



The Writing Support Desk is in Leddy Library on the first floor and adjacent to computers. Below the desk is the basement and above are many books.

LOGICAL

- In addition, moreover, furthermore, also, and...
- Of course, to be sure, granted, that said...

- Similarly, correspondingly, likewise, equally...
- However, but, (al)though, alternately, conversely...

- Therefore, thus, consequently, so, accordingly, hence, as a result, due to, because...



ADDITION

There are several reasons to learn to cook. **For example,** you can impress your friends. **In addition,** you can save money. **Finally,** you can pursue it as a career.



COMPARISON

One study suggests that fast food can negatively impact health. **Similarly**, other research suggests choosing healthy foods. **Likewise**, doctors recommend avoiding fast food.



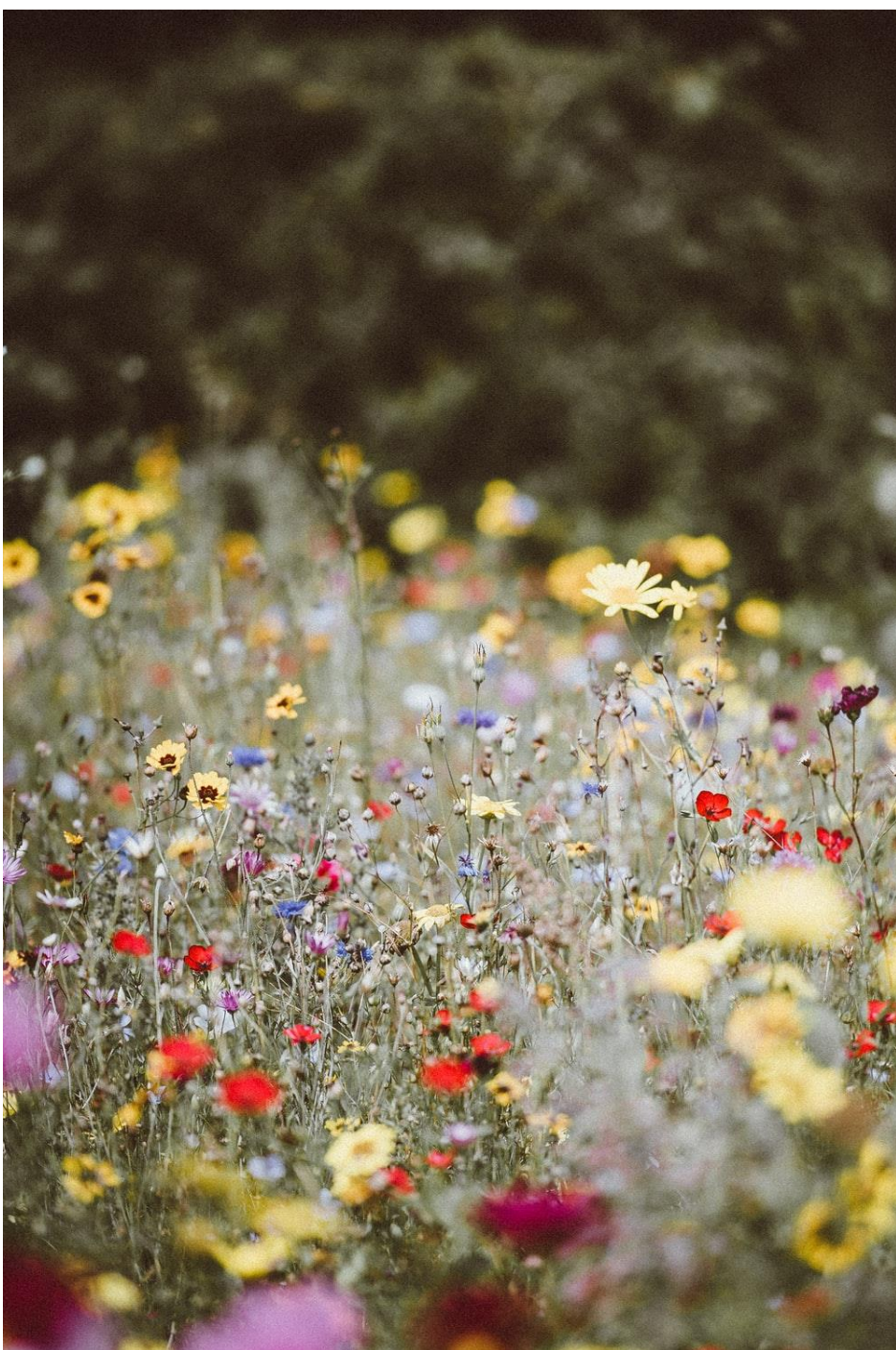
CONTRAST

My friend believes in ghosts. **However**, I don't think they are real.



CONCESSION

Of course, it is important to be impartial. That said, complete objectivity is rarely possible. Still, identifying bias is crucial.



CAUSE

Bees require pollen for survival. **Therefore**, it is important to grow flowering plants. **Thus**, I will plant a pollinator garden. **As a result**, my yard will be full of flowers.



CONCLUSION

In closing, it is important that the jury consider all and only the evidence they have heard in court.

A NOTE ABOUT 'BESIDES'

- 'Besides' does not simply mean 'In addition'
- It implies 'even if that were not the case'



• I can't go for coffee because I'm working that day; besides, I don't like coffee.



• I don't like coffee; besides, I don't like dancing.

ALTERNATIVES TO TRANSITIONS

REPETITION:
more common
in speeches,
this creates a
chorus effect

PRONOUNS
can be used to
call back to
words and
ideas

WORD PAIRS:
common
binary terms
and pairs can
imply
connections

**COLONS &
SEMICOLONS**
can introduce
summations
and lists and
imply
relationships,
respectively

ALTERNATIVES TO TRANSITIONS

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Barack Obama
"Yes we can"

Martin Luther
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"I have a dream"

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WORD PAIRS

The **MINIMUM**
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MAXIMUM is 100.

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COLONS & SEMICOLONS

The study considered
three variables: age,
height, and weight.

I spent my whole
paycheque; there
was a sale at
Sephora.

REMEMBER!

- Colons **MUST** follow an independent clause.



- The study looked at three variables: height, age, and weight.



- The study looked at: height, age, and weight.

REMEMBER!

- Semicolons must separate independent clauses.
- Semicolons are not combined with conjunctions.



• I spent my whole paycheque; there was a sale at Sephora.



• I spent my whole paycheque; because there was a sale at Sephora.

SUMMARY

TYPES OF TRANSITIONS

- **adverb/adverbial phrases**
- **prepositions/prepositional phrases**
- **conjunctions (coordinating, subordinating, correlating)**

FUNCTIONS OF TRANSITIONS

- **sequential relationships**
- **temporal relationships**
- **spatial relationships**
- **logical relationships**

ALTERNATIVES TO TRANSITIONS

- **repetition**
- **pronouns**
- **word pairs**
- **colons & semicolons**

QUESTIONS?

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