



TRANSITIONS |



Q. How could this be improved?

Leonard and Sheldon were roommates. Leonard was lonely. Penny moved in. Leonard fell in love with her. She initially rejected him. They eventually started dating. They broke up. They started dating again. Leonard proposed to Penny. She accepted.

A. Add transitions

Leonard and Sheldon were roommates, **but** Leonard was lonely. **However**, **when** Penny moved in, Leonard fell in love with her. **Though** she initially rejected him, they eventually started dating. **After a while**, they broke up. **However**, they started dating again **soon after**. **When** Leonard proposed to Penny, she accepted.

**What are
transitional
expressions?**

Words or phrases that establish logical connections between words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs.

Overview

1. Purpose
2. Categories
3. Functions
4. Alternatives

Purpose



What do transitions do?

They act as
bridges from one
idea to another.



They act as **signposts** that show readers how ideas relate to each other.

What do transitions do?

Categories

Categories

1. Adverbial words/phrases
2. Prepositions/Prepositional phrases
3. Conjunctions

Adverbial phrases

Adverbial words/phrases are words or group of words that modify verbs, adjectives, or adverbs.

As transition words, they typically apply to verbs.

They often introduce a sentence.

Adverbial Words

These often appear at the beginning of a sentence and are closed off with a comma.

Examples

- However
- Therefore
- Additionally
- Moreover
- Besides

Adverbial Phrases

Often appear at the beginning of the sentence.

Usually start with a preposition.

When opening a sentence, they are closed out with a comma.

Examples

- In the 18th century,
- During the evening,
- At the library,
- With regard to education,

Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

A preposition comes before
(pre) a noun/pronoun

Highlights an objects
position to another noun

May be a phrase that starts
with a preposition

Prepositions

- In
- On
- At
- Of
- For
- From
- To
- Over

Prepositional Phrases

- During World War II,
- In May of 1941,
- On November 11th, 1918,
- For a variety of reasons,

Conjunctions

Coordinating

Subordinating

Correlating

Coordinators: Examples

- F** *For (explains why)*
- A** *And (addition)*
- N** *Nor (excludes)*
- B** *But (disagree/contrast)*
- O** *Or (alternative)*
- Y** *Yet (disagree/contrast)*
- S** *So (consequence)*

FANBOYS

THE SAGA'S BIGGEST FANS
ON THE GALAXY'S GREATEST MISSION



Subordinating

Preceding

Concluding

Preceding: Introduce a clause

1. **If** you need space, you should join NASA.
2. **Because** I took a day off, I got fired from the calendar factory.
3. **If** an evening dress is eveningwear, a suit of armor must be silver ware.

Concluding: Follow a clause

1. The skeleton didn't go to the dance **because** he had nobody to dance with.
2. Why do they put a light in the fridge **if** we shouldn't eat at night?
3. The golfer needs new socks **because** he has a hole in one.

Correlating Conjunctions

Correlating conjunctions links pairs of words within a sentence and frames them as equally important.

- either... or
- neither... nor
- whether... or
- just as... so
- as... as
- as much... as
- no sooner... than

Functions

Functions

1. Temporal Relationships
2. Spatial Relationships
3. Logical Relationships

Sequential

Before

During

After

Temporal Relationships

- first/ firstly, for example/ instance
 - second, thirdly, fourthly, ect.
- Then, soon, later, during, meanwhile, subsequently, immediately, at length, eventually, in the future, currently
 - Last/ Lastly, Finally,

Sequential



Example

First Thanos collected the Infinity Stones, **then** he wiped out half the universe. **Now** he is enjoying his retirement.

- Before
- Prior to
- Leading up to
- In advance of
 - Ahead of
 - Preciding
 - By

Before

During

- While
- As
- Since
- At the same time as
- During
- Meanwhile
- All the while

- After
- Afterwards
- Later
- Then
- Next
- Subsequently
- After a while

After



Example

Prior to joining the UFC, Ronda Rousey competed in the 2008 Olympics. **After** joining the UFC, she became the first female UFC champion. **During** her UFC career, she began acting. **Now** she is a WWE superstar!

Above

Below

Beside

Other

Spatial Relationships

Above

- Above
- Over
- Overhead
- Beyond
- On top of

- Below
- Under
- Beneath
- Underneath

Below

Beside

- Beside
- Next to
- Alongside
- Side by side
- Side by each
- Adjacent to

- Behind
- Before
- In front of
 - In
 - Within
 - Without
- Outside of

Others



Example

The Writing Support Desk is **in** Leddy Library, **on** the first floor **and adjacent to** the Circulation Desk. **Below** the desk is Leddy's lower level, **and above** is the library's collection of books.

Example/ Addition

Compare/ Contrast

Cause/ Conclusion

Concession

Logical Relationships

Logical Transitions: Addition

- In addition
- Additionally
- Furthermore
- Moreover
- Likewise
- Also
- And
- Lastly/Finally



Example

There are several reasons why Michonne should stay. **For example**, she is great with a sword. **In addition**, she is brave. **Lastly**, I'm too scared to tell her to leave.

- Similarly
- Likewise
- In the same way
 - Equally
- Correspondingly

Logical Transitions: Comparison



Example

Julian Assange
created WikiLeaks.
Likewise, Chewbacca
created WookieLeaks.

Logical Transitions: Contrast

- In contrast
- However
- Though/ Although
- But
- Conversely
- Alternately



Example

A comma is a pause at the end of a clause. **In contrast,** cats have claws at the end of their paws.

- Of course
- To be sure
- Certainly
- Naturally
- Granted
 - Still
- That Said

Logical Transitions: Concession



Of course I love
you; you're
family!

Example

Logical Transitions: Cause

- Therefore
- Thus
- Consequently
- So
- Accordingly
- Due to
- Hence
- As a result
- Because



René Descartes
says, “I think;
therefore, I am!”

Example



Donald Trump
says, "I tweet;
therefore, I am!"

Example

- In conclusion
 - To conclude
- In summation
 - To finish
 - In closing

Logical
Transitions:
Cause



Example

“In closing, I am confident that you gentlemen will review, without passion, the evidence that you have heard.”
Atticus Finch



...and many, many more.

Still looking for more? Find an even more comprehensive list [here](#).

Alternatives

Problems with transitions

- Increased word count
- Repetitive structure/language
- Formulaic writing

Can ideas be
connected
without
using
transitional
expressions?

Repeat

Repeat a word or phrase from a previous sentence or paragraph

Use

Use pronouns that refers to a noun/phrase used previously

Pair

Pair associated/binary word combinations

Add

Add punctuation

Repetition

This creates a chorus that aligns text.

This approach is more common when speaking



Martin Luther King Jr.

“I have a dream.”

“We shall overcome.”

Example



Kurt Vonnegut

“So it goes...”

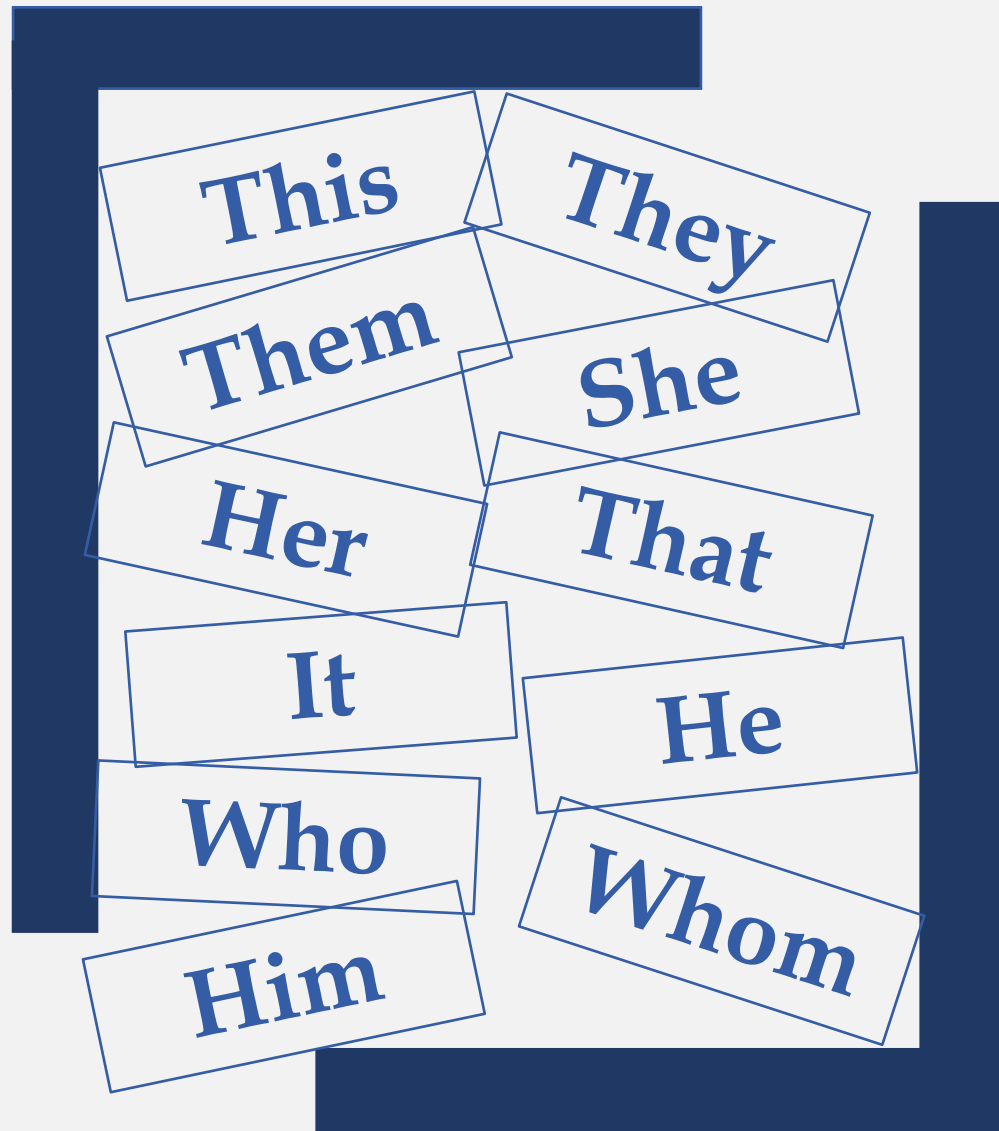
Example



Barack Obama

“Yes we can.”

Example



Pronouns

When used effectively, pronouns can call back to the ideas, peoples, and things recently discussed and link them to new ideas.



Example

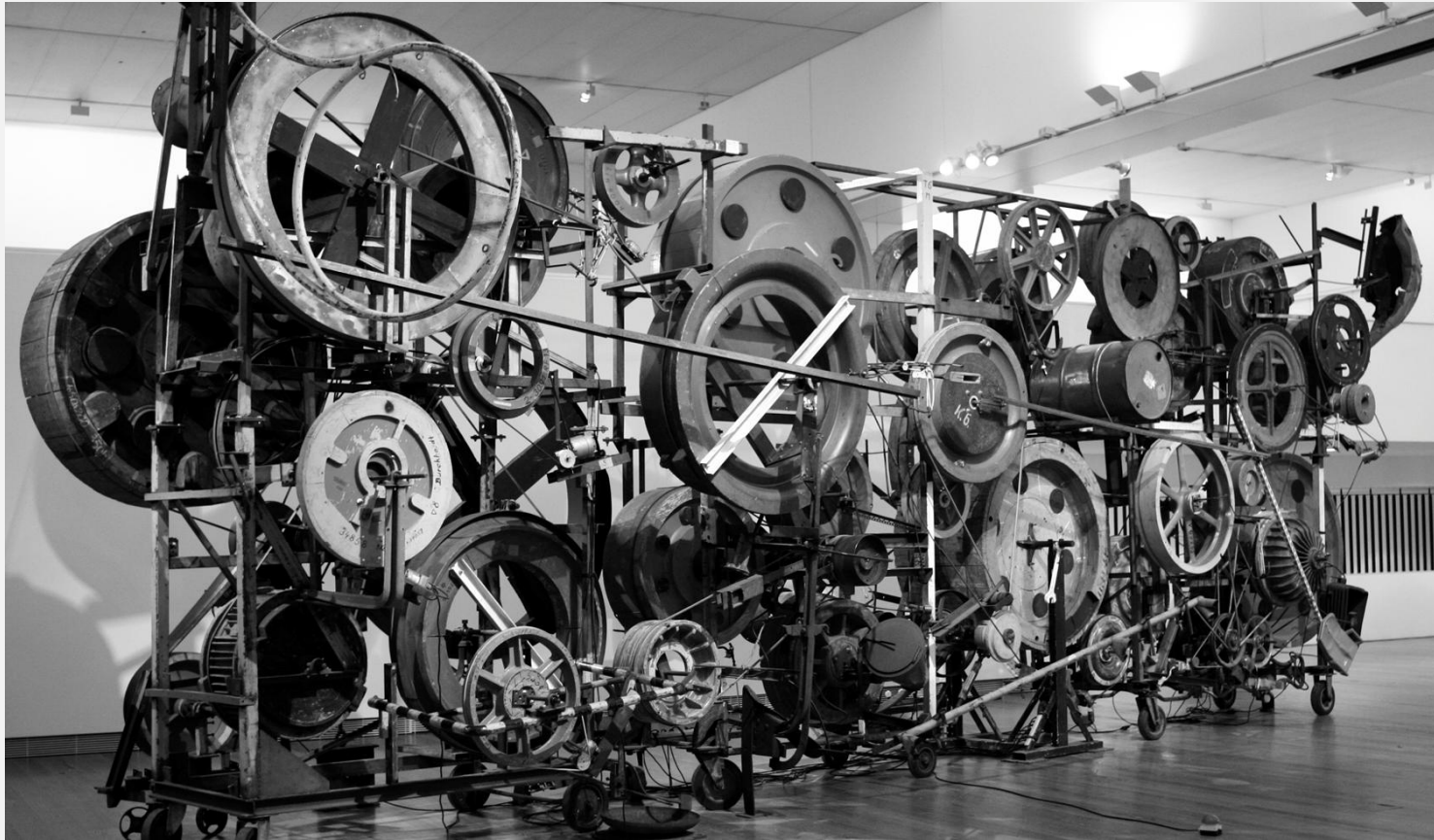
After Catwoman rescued Batman, **he** tried to arrest **her**. **That** was the last time **she** would ever help **him**.



Pairing Words

Pairs words associated with each other helps to create implied relationships.

This is especially effective with binary terms.



The machine has a **minimum** output of 500 units per week. The **maximum** output is one million units.

Example

A stylized graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark blue L-shaped frame. Inside the frame, there is a solid blue circle representing a head and a blue, curved, wedge-like shape representing a body, forming a minimalist human figure.

Punctuation

Punctuation can guide the reader and show the relationships between clauses, phrases, and words.

- Colons and introduce lists, conclusions, and summaries
- Semicolons can tell the reader to infer a relationship.



Sheldon's not here;
there is a train exhibit
down town.

Example



I examined the
evidence: everybody
participated in the
murder!

Example

Kahoot!



Exercise

Mad Libs



Overview

Category

1. Adverbs
2. Conjunctions
3. Preposition

Purpose

1. Temporal
2. Spatial
3. Logical

Alternatives

1. Repetition
2. Pairing/binaries
3. Pronouns
4. Punctuation

Questions?





If you more individualized support, visit us at the Writing Support Desk in Leddy Library!

Still Have Citation Questions?