



# Writing Skills

## Transition Words & Phrases

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## Transition Words and Phrases

This writing skills worksheet targets the abilities to both comprehend and express the semantic relationship between ideas. Understanding how two ideas are related is integral to grasping the big picture. *Transition Words and Phrases* begins with a reference sheet that reinforces students' understanding of the following conceptual relationships: time, comparison, contrast, emphasis, conclusion, addition of information, clarification, and causality, while providing sample words and phrases that express those relationships. The three-page worksheet that follows presents two tasks. First, students are given the relationship between pairs of ideas and must combine those ideas using transition words and phrases from the reference sheet. Second, students must identify the relationship between more pairs of ideas before providing transition words and phrases to combine the ideas. *Transition Words and Phrases* increases students' awareness of conceptual relationships and provides them with straightforward practice expressing those relationships.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Transition Words and Phrases Reference Sheet

Choose your transitions based on the relationship between two ideas presented. Figure out what the second idea is doing in relation to the first, and use a transition for that type of relationship. Here are some examples of transitions for different relationships:

### **Shows Time**

first second third then last soon later next while after afterward  
during now until meanwhile finally as soon as suddenly before

### **Compares Ideas** (how they are alike)

like likewise also as while similarly in the same way as well

### **Contrasts Ideas** (how they are different)

but however still yet although otherwise in contrast nevertheless  
on the other hand even though while

### **Emphasizes a Point**

again truly especially to repeat in fact to emphasize to highlight

### **Concludes or Summarizes**

finally lastly as shown to sum up all in all in conclusion to conclude

### **Adds Information**

again also as well next another and besides for instance for example  
moreover along with in addition additionally other plus

### **Clarifies**

in other words for instance that is specifically to clarify

### **Shows Causality**

therefore because consequently as a consequence so since as a result

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Transition Words and Phrases

### Examples within Sentences

**Directions:** Notice the relationship between each pair of ideas.  
Choose your transition words and phrases from the samples.

#### Shows Time

- 1) In the morning I brush my teeth \_\_\_\_\_ I take a shower.
- 2) Sam saw Melanie in the coffee shop one morning. \_\_\_\_\_ she passed him by on her way to class.

#### Compares Ideas (how they are alike)

- 1) The world is a big place; \_\_\_\_\_ a new student can get lost at school.
- 2) I love to draw \_\_\_\_\_ my brother loves to create giant oil paintings.

#### Contrasts Ideas (how they are different)

- 1) The world is a big place; \_\_\_\_\_ you can feel safe with your circle of friends.
- 2) I love to draw \_\_\_\_\_ my brother hates art classes.

#### Emphasizes a Point

- 1) We all experience at least some heartache mixed in with the joy in life.  
\_\_\_\_\_ no one gets through life without getting hurt.
- 2) I've been looking for him my whole life; \_\_\_\_\_ he's the one!

#### Concludes or Summarizes

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_, these are all the reasons to support solar energy.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_, don't leave home without your phone charger.

#### Adds Information

- 1) The French Revolution was a period of social and political upheaval.  
\_\_\_\_\_, historians regard the Revolution as one of the most important events in human history.
- 2) I didn't want to go to the party. \_\_\_\_\_ my favorite movie was on television that night.

### Clarifies

- 1) The French Revolution was a period of social and political upheaval.  
\_\_\_\_\_, there were many changes occurring in both French society and government during that time.
- 2) I didn't want to go to the party. \_\_\_\_\_, I knew Tom would be there and I didn't want to see him until we could resolve our issues.

### Shows Causality

- 1) The food truck won't be here at all this week. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm going to have to pack a bag lunch for myself every day.
- 2) Yesterday I ran into an old friend from high school, so we went out for lunch and had a great time. \_\_\_\_\_ I've decided to do a better job of keeping in touch with my old friends.

**Directions:** For the following, first identify the relationship between each pair of ideas, and then combine each pair of ideas using a chosen transition word or phrase.

- 1) Sara lived 500 miles away from her family. She couldn't make it home for the holidays.  
Type of relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Combine ideas using transition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Every Sunday night Tom chooses his clothes for work the next day. He packs a bag lunch and puts it into the refrigerator.  
Type of relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Combine ideas using transition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) When I get home my dog always greets me, barking and licking my face. My cat can't be bothered.  
Type of relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Combine ideas using transition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



- 4) Henry needed a vacation. He booked his flight to Cancun, packed his bag, and found someone who could look after his cat while he was away.  
Type of relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Combine ideas using transition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Henry needed a vacation. He had been working 60-hour weeks and was so stressed that he couldn't sleep at night.  
Type of relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Combine ideas using transition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) The open-air market was filled with so many different sounds: the clinking of coins, children shouting, the vendors ringing bells. When I entered the museum, you could hear a pin drop.  
Type of relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Combine ideas using transition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Cheetahs are typically solitary animals; while males sometimes live with their brothers, females raise cubs by themselves for one year. My uncle Bill has lived alone his whole adult life and says he prefers to be by himself.  
Type of relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Combine ideas using transition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) My neighbor's daughter doesn't like cake, pie, ice cream, candy, chocolate, or even sugary cereals. She just doesn't have a sweet tooth.  
Type of relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Combine ideas using transition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Transition Words and Phrases

## Examples within Sentences

### Answer Key

(Note: these are sample answers – many are possible)

**Directions:** Notice the relationship between each pair of ideas.  
Choose your transition words and phrases from the samples.

#### Shows Time

- 1) In the morning I brush my teeth before I take a shower.
- 2) Sam saw Melanie in the coffee shop one morning. Later she passed him by on her way to class.

#### Compares Ideas (how they are alike)

- 1) The world is a big place; likewise a new student can get lost at school.
- 2) I love to draw in the same way my brother loves to create giant oil paintings.

#### Contrasts Ideas (how they are different)

- 1) The world is a big place; however you can feel safe with your circle of friends.
- 2) I love to draw even though my brother hates art classes.

#### Emphasizes a Point

- 1) We all experience at least some heartache mixed in with the joy in life. In fact no one gets through life without getting hurt.
- 2) I've been looking for him my whole life; truly he's the one!

#### Concludes or Summarizes

- 1) Finally, these are all the reasons to support solar energy.
- 2) In conclusion, don't leave home without your phone charger.

#### Adds Information

- 1) The French Revolution was a period of social and political upheaval. Moreover, historians regard the Revolution as one of the most important events in human history.
- 2) I didn't want to go to the party. Additionally, my favorite movie was on television that night.

## Clarifies

- 1) The French Revolution was a period of social and political upheaval. In other words, there were many changes occurring in both French society and government during that time.
- 2) I didn't want to go to the party. To clarify, I knew Tom would be there and I didn't want to see him until we could resolve our issues.

## Shows Causality

- 1) The food truck won't be here at all this week. Therefore I'm going to have to pack a bag lunch for myself every day.
- 2) Yesterday I ran into an old friend from high school, so we went out for lunch and had a great time. As a result, I've decided to do a better job of keeping in touch with my old friends.

**Directions:** For the following, first identify the relationship between each pair of ideas, and then combine each pair of ideas using a chosen transition word or phrase.

**(Note: some of these can convey more than one type of relationship, and there are many ways to combine each pair of ideas. Sample answers are given)**

- 1) Sara lived 500 miles away from her family. She couldn't make it home for the holidays.  
Type of relationship: Shows Causality  
Combine ideas using transition: Sara couldn't make it home for the holidays since she lived 500 miles away from her family.
- 2) Every Sunday night Tom chooses his clothes for work the next day. He packs a bag lunch and puts it into the refrigerator.  
Type of relationship: Shows Time  
Combine ideas using transition: Every Sunday night Tom chooses his clothes for work the next day. Afterward, he packs a bag lunch and puts it into the refrigerator.
- 3) When I get home my dog always greets me, barking and licking my face. My cat can't be bothered.  
Type of relationship: Contrasts Ideas  
Combine ideas using transition: When I get home my dog always greets me, barking and licking my face; in contrast, my cat can't be bothered.



- 4) Henry needed a vacation. He booked his flight to Cancun, packed his bag, and found someone who could look after his cat while he was away.

Type of relationship: Shows Time

Combine ideas using transition: Henry needed a vacation. Finally, he booked his flight to Cancun, packed his bag, and found someone who could look after his cat while he was away.

- 5) Henry needed a vacation. He had been working 60-hour weeks and was so stressed that he couldn't sleep at night.

Type of relationship: Shows Causality

Combine ideas using transition: Henry needed a vacation since he had been working 60-hour weeks and was so stressed that he couldn't sleep at night.

- 6) The open-air market was filled with so many different sounds: the clinking of coins, children shouting, the vendors ringing bells. When I entered the museum, you could hear a pin drop.

Type of relationship: Contrasts Ideas

Combine ideas using transition: The open-air market was filled with so many different sounds: the clinking of coins, children shouting, the vendors ringing bells. On the other hand, when I entered the museum, you could hear a pin drop.

- 7) Cheetahs are typically solitary animals; while males sometimes live with their brothers, females raise cubs by themselves for one year. My uncle Bill has lived alone his whole adult life and says he prefers to be by himself.

Type of relationship: Compares Ideas

Combine ideas using transition: Cheetahs are typically solitary animals; while males sometimes live with their brothers, females raise cubs by themselves for one year. Similarly, my uncle Bill has lived alone his whole adult life and says he prefers to be by himself.

- 8) My neighbor's daughter doesn't like cake, pie, ice cream, candy, chocolate, or even sugary cereals. She just doesn't have a sweet tooth.

Type of relationship: Clarifies

Combine ideas using transition: My neighbor's daughter doesn't like cake, pie, ice cream, candy, chocolate, or even sugary cereals. Specifically, she just doesn't have a sweet tooth.

