

Transition Words

Transition words and phrases, also called linking words, connecting words, or transitional words, are used to link together different ideas in your text. They help the reader to follow your arguments by expressing the relationships between different sentences or parts of a sentence.

The following sentence example contains no transitional words. The lack of transitions results in an abrupt and choppy sentence that is rather basic:

The proposed solution to the problem did not work. We attempted a second solution. This solution was unsuccessful.

Here is the same sentence with transition words. Notice that the words **therefore**, **however**, and **also** are the transition words that were added. Do you notice a difference?

The proposed solution to the problem did not work. **Therefore**, we attempted a second solution. **However**, this solution was **also** unsuccessful.

Words that add thoughts or combine events	Words that compare similar points/ideas/thoughts	Words that contrast two ideas/thoughts by their differences	Words that emphasize or clarify a point/idea/thought
Additionally Again Also And And so And then As a result As well Besides Beyond Even Equally important First, firstly Finally Furthermore Further In addition In the first place In the second place Last, lastly Moreover, more Next Then too What is more	Alike As well Both By the same token Both Equally important Here Identical to In similar fashion In the same way In comparison In like manner Just as Like, likewise Moreover Similarly Too Wherever	After all Although And yet At the same time Be that as it may But despite, despite Conversely Despite Even though However In contrast Instead In spite of Nevertheless Nonetheless On the contrary On the one hand On the other hand Otherwise Regardless Still Though Unlike Whereas Yet	As a matter of fact Admittedly Although Above all Certainly Clearly Especially Evidently Even though Granted In fact In other words In particular Indeed It is true It may be true that Most important Naturally No doubt Obviously Of course Particularly Surely Truly To be sure To repeat Undoubtedly Without a doubt

Words that show cause and effect	Words that summarize/conclude an idea or thought	Words that restate or clarify an idea/thought/concept	Words that show examples or illustrations
<p>Accordingly As a result And so Because Consequently For this reason Hence On account of Since So Therefore Thus To this end</p>	<p>As a result All in all Finally In any event In brief In conclusion In other words In summary In short In the end Last, lastly On the whole Therefore To sum up To summarize To conclude Ultimately</p>	<p>For this purpose In order that In other words In simpler terms In particular So that To that end To this end That is That is to say To clarify To explain To rephrase it To put in another way To be sure</p>	<p>As an illustration For example For instance Specifically Such as To be specific To show, shows To illustrate To demonstrate To exemplify</p>

Words that show time or chronological order		Words that indicate spatial order and/or location	
After	Meanwhile	Above	Near
After a few days	Now	Adjacent to	Nearby
After a while	Never	Across	Next
Afterwards	Next	Ahead of	Next to
Again also	Once	At the end of	Neighboring on
Always	Often	Behind	On top of
And then	Presently	Below	On the other side of
As long as	Previously	Beyond	Opposite
As soon as	Primarily	Beneath	Outside
At the end	Second	Between	Over
At length	Since	Centrally	Peripherally
As	Simultaneously	Closer to	Straight
Before	Subsequently	Elsewhere	Straight ahead
During	So far	Far	To the left (right)
Earlier	Sometimes	Far from	There
Finally	Soon	Farther on	Under
First	Then	Further away	Wherever
Following	Third	Here	Within
Immediately	This time	In front of	
In addition to	until	In the middle of	
In the meantime	When	In the back of	
In the past	Whenever	In the distance	
Last	While	In the future	
Later		In the past	
Lately		Inside	
		In	

What is a correlative conjunction?

You use correlative conjunctions in your speech all the time. If you’ve ever said something like “I could play **either** soccer **or** basketball next season,” you’ve used correlative conjunctions.

In your writing, correlative conjunctions are a handy tool to make your sentences stronger and clearer.

- Correlative conjunctions are conjunctions used to illustrate how two words or phrases within a sentence relate to each other. Correlative conjunctions **always come in pairs**.

Examples of correlative pairs that can aid in contrasting ideas, places, people, or objects	
Either....or	Neither...nor
Not only...but also	Here...there
Years ago....today	This...that
The earlier...the later	Then...now
The first...whereas the second	Some...others
On the one hand...on the other hand	Once...now

Here are some examples of how you can correctly use correlative conjunctions in sentences:

- We could **either** hike up the mountain **or** swim in the lake this afternoon.
- **Whether** you bike **or** drive to work, you’ll need to show your parking pass.
- **Not only** did my boyfriend buy me a Nintendo Switch, **but** he **also** bought me a bunch of games!