Transitions[1]

Writers use transitions to signal how ideas relate in a text. Transitions connect words, phrases, and clauses in sentences. A common type of transition is a conjunction.

The headings at the top of the chart (e.g., cause and effect and sequence) are the most common relationships or connections that transitions signal. The words and phrases below the headings (e.g., "so" and "until") are the words and phrases writers use to signal the relationship or connection.

Cause and Effect	Sequence/Order	Under Certain Conditions	Addition	Contrast
Give a reason: ● because ● since ● as Give a result: ● so ● therefore ● as a result ● thus	● in the (first, second, etc.) place ● first of all ● secondly/thirdly/lastly ● then ● next ● before ● after ● until ● eventually ● at first, at last ● in the end ● finally	● unless ● either/neither ● or/nor ● when ● so long as ● given that ● if/then	● and ● in addition/additionally ● as well/also/too ● moreover ● not only ___, but also ___ ● in fact ● such as/like ● in particular/particularly ● especially ● including ● for example/for instance ● that is/in other words ● similarly ● in the same way ● likewise	● but ● however ● although/even though ● while ● whereas ● unlike ● on the other hand ● yet ● instead ● actually

[1] **This handout is adapted from https://msu.edu/~jdowell/135/transw.html which falls under a Creative Commons BY 3.0 license. Original authors are Gregory M. Campbell, Michael Buckhoff and John A. Dowell. <http://www.english-at-home.com/grammar/linking-words/>**

Example: “More hunters came with their families. **At first** there was plenty of food, **but** after a few years the land seemed crowded. There was no longer enough game for everyone to hunt. **Each year**, when the hunters saw birds fly south, they wished they could fly over the mountains of ice. They watched the animals **and** found there were ways around and through the thick glaciers.”

- **At first:** “At first” signals a sequence or order and shows how the action began. In this example, “at first” is used to show the other of events - at first there was plenty of food.
- **But**: “But” signals a contrast. In this example, “but” signals that there was food when the first hunters came, but when more settlers arrived, food became scarce.
- **Each year:** “Each year” signals a sequence or order and shows that the action repeated. In this example, “each year” is used to show how often hunters watched the birds.
- **And:** “And” signals an addition. In this example, “and” is used tell the actions of the hunters.