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	Under Certain Conditions	Addition	Contrast
Give a reason: • because • since • as • owing to (the fact) • due to (the fact that) • in that Give a result: • so • therefore • consequently/as a consequence • as a result • thus • hence • for this reason	• in the (first, second, etc.) place/thing • initially/first of all/at first • secondly/thirdly/lastly • then • subsequently • next • before • after/afterwards • until • previously • at present • eventually • at last • in the end • finally	• unless • either/neither • or/nor • when • so long as • if/then • in the event that • given that • provided that • even if • only if • on the condition • in case	• and • in addition/additionally • as well/also/too • further/furthermore • moreover • not only ___, but also ___ • in fact • such as/like • in particular/particularly • especially/notably • specifically • including • for example/for instance • that is/in other words • similarly • in the same way • equally • likewise	• but • however • although/even though • despite/in spite of • while • whereas • unlike • on the other hand • yet • but even so • instead • actually • nevertheless/nonetheless • conversely • still • notwithstanding • regardless • besides

[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: “It was a simple matter to throw off the covers; he only had to blow himself up a little **and** they fell off by themselves. **But** it became difficult after that, **especially** as he was so exceptionally broad. He would have used his arms and his hands to push himself up; but instead of them he only had all those little legs continuously moving in different directions, and which he was **moreover** unable to control. If he wanted to bend one of them, **then** that was the first one that would stretch itself out; and if he finally managed to do what he wanted with that leg, all the others seemed to be set free and would move about painfully. "This is something that can't be done in bed", Gregor said to himself, "so don't keep trying to do it".

The first thing he wanted to do was get the lower part of his body out of the bed, but he had never seen this lower part, and could not imagine what it looked like; it turned out to be too hard to move; it went so slowly; **and finally**, almost in a frenzy, when he carelessly shoved himself forwards with all the force he could gather, he chose the wrong direction, hit hard against the lower bedpost, and learned from the burning pain he felt that the lower part of his body might well, **at present**, be the most sensitive.”

- **And:** “And” signals an addition. In this example, “and” is used to list the steps Gregor needs to take to remove his covers.
- **But:** “But” indicates a contrast. In this example, “but” signals that the remaining steps are not as easy as removing his covers.
- **Especially:** “Especially” signals an addition. In this example, “especially” indicates that his difficulties are even greater due to his wide size.
- **Moreover:** “Moreover” signals an addition. In this example, “moreover” indicates that in addition to having more legs, Gregor cannot control them.
- **Then:** “Then” signals a sequence or order and shows how the action or idea continues into the next clause or sentence. In this example, “then” is used to tell show the order of events as Gregor stretched out his legs.
- **The first thing:** “The first thing” signals a beginning. In this example, “the first thing” signals getting the lower part of his body out of the bed is the first step to getting out of the bed.
- **And finally:** “And finally” signals a sequence or order and shows how the action or idea ends. In this example, “and finally” is used to tell what happens when Gregor gets his lower part of his body out of the bed.
- **At present:** “At present” signals a sequence or order and shows what is happening right now. In this example, “at present” is used to tell the pain that Gregor is experiencing in the moment.