**ELA 8**

**Transitions**

Transitions bridge the gap between ideas. They may be words or phrases used in the beginning, middle and/or end of body paragraphs to lead the reader to a new idea and explain connections between the old and new ideas.

Use this list when searching for a precise and sophisticated transition to use in your writing.

**Sample Transitions:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category (what it is used for)** | **Possible words** | **Category (what it is used for)** | **Possible words** |
| ADDITION – these add information to your idea | besides  further  again  in addition  also  next  equally important | TIME – these words show the sequence of events | previously  meanwhile  afterward  shortly after  eventually  promptly  beforehand  later  immediately  soon  gradually  in the future |
| CONTRAST – these show a difference between ideas | however  on the other hand  on the contrary  but  yet  although  in contrast  nevertheless  whereas  in spite of this | PLACE – to show relative location | here  there  nearby  in this location  on the opposite side  in this vicinity |
| COMPARISON – when comparing an idea | similarly  for instance  likewise  in comparison  as an example  in the same way | SUMMATION – words that wrap up your ideas (good for clinchers) | finally  in other words  to sum up  in conclusion |
| RESULT OR CONCLUSION – these show cause and effect | as a result  consequently  hence  as a consequence  thus  therefore | ILLUSTRATION – to show examples of ideas | for example  in other words  namely  to illustrate  for instance  in particular  that is |
| **Category (what it is used for)** | **Possible words** | **Category (what it is used for)** | **Possible words** |
| REASONS – words that help explain why | because  for  for this purpose  since  for this reason | QUALIFICATION – words that help connect ideas to make your point clearer | after all  by contrast  in contrast  whereas  specifically  especially  although  despite  though  yet  frequently  in general |
| EMPHASIS – when you want a certain idea to stand out | by all means  in fact  in any event  above all  indeed  of course  as a last resort  in particular  foremost  truly  surely | CONCESSION – when you want to acknowledge the other side to your issue | to be sure  granted  certainly  of course  no doubt  doubtless |
| RESTRICTION – if your idea has some kind of condition on it | if provided  provided  in case  unless  lest  when |  |  |

**Transition words are ALMOST ALWAYS followed by a COMMA!**

**Transition Words Activity – Part 1**

*Circle the best transitions from the choices in parenthesis.*

1. I would love to see you tomorrow (so/however/again) let’s have lunch together.
2. My sister loves to eat, (finally/moreover/but) I don’t care much about food.
3. That restaurant is awful. Yesterday (and/for example/however), I found a bug in my soup.
4. She felt exhausted; (therefore/nevertheless/whereas), she took a nap.
5. He expected to do well on the test, (and then/in brief/ for) he had studied diligently.
6. John eats five big meals a day; (as a result/despite this/hence), he never gains weight.
7. Josephine ate too fast. (Consequently/Likewise/In contrast), she had indigestion.
8. I was watching the game; (furthermore/meanwhile/first), the soup boiled over.
9. The music’s too loud. (Besides/In fact/Although), it’s making the windows rattle.
10. This morning I will be in Dayton. (In effect/Above all/Later), I will be in Palm Beach.
11. I like to read; unfortunately, (so/soon/though), I hardly have any time to read for fun.
12. First, Hank went to the store; (even though/then/third), he visited his sister for an hour.
13. Please, don’t forget the cat food and juice. (Nevertheless/Furthermore/For instance), bring the paper plates, napkins and cups for the picnic.
14. Ms. McNeil, (without a doubt/yet/plus) is the best teacher in the school.
15. He concluded like this: “(Soon/Next / To sum up), there’s no business like show business.

**Transition Words Activity Part 2:**

Use the transitions to the right of the sentences to fill in the blanks in the sentence. Use each transition only once. Capitalize if necessary.

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| --- | --- |
| 1. When you begin an exercise program, you must be careful not to overdo it. My father, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, hurt his back by exercising too hard without warming up first. 2. She had looked for a job everywhere; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, she was called for an interview. 3. This is the end of the road. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, there is only forest. | for example  finally  but  so  still  beyond  to the left |
| 1. She had been studying for hours. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, she hoped to do well on the test. 2. First, Mary went to the store. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, she went to visit her mother. 3. I would like to watch many TV shows; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I don’t seem to have enough time to watch. 4. John ate and ate; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he never gained weight. | similarly  third  nevertheless  however  as a result  then  for instance  therefore |
| 1. He stayed up too late last night; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_he slept until noon. 2. I want you to buy milk, eggs and fruit juice; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I want you to be sure to get cereal and ice cream. 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I will boil the water. Second, I will brew the tea, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I will serve it. 4. Joe, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, happens to be my best friend. 5. Jane studies all the time; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Billy never studies. | meanwhile  furthermore  first  third  in fact  until then  consequently  in contrast |

**Transition Words Activity – Part 3**

Create an original sentence or pair of sentence using the transition indicated. Some of the transitions may need two, connected sentences to work properly.

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| 1. for example |
| 1. furthermore |
| 1. nevertheless |
| 1. meanwhile |
| 1. however |
| 1. as a result |
| 1. without a doubt |
| 1. consequently |