



Using Varied Transitions

Transition words are used in a sentence to connect two ideas. They join clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or entire sections of writing together to show a relationship between them. Different transition words signal different kinds of relationships, for example:

addition/agreement

comparison

contrast/opposition

time/sequence

examples

conclusion/summary

location/place

cause/condition

effect/consequence

Changing **only** the transition word in a sentence can change the sentence's meaning. Consider the following examples:

- The boys went outside; however, the girls decided to watch T.V.
- The boys went outside after the girls decided to watch T.V.
- In summary, the boys went outside, and the girls decided to watch T.V.
- For example, the boys went outside, and the girls decided to watch T.V.
- The boys went outside because the girls decided to watch T.V.
- The boys went outside. Nearby, the girls decided to watch T.V.

In each sentence, while the two main ideas are the same (the boys went outside, the girls decided to watch T.V.), the relationship between them is just a little bit different, which changes the overall meaning of the sentence.

DIRECTIONS: Read your draft paper. Circle the transition words that you have used. Above each transition word, write what kind of relationship the word signals. Is this the relationship you want to signal? If so, place a check mark above the word. If not, place an X, and revisit that transition word when you go to revise your paper.