

Transition Words: Connecting Ideas

Transition words are used in a sentence to connect two ideas. They join clauses together to show a difference or a connection.

Example 1: We arrived late at the movie, so we didn't understand the ending.

In Example 1, the word *so* connects two clauses to show a result. It was because we were late that we didn't understand the ending. The meaning of the two clauses is clearer than if each stood alone.

Example 2: We arrived late at the movie. We didn't understand the ending.

In Example 2, the two ideas are separate. There is no connection with arriving late and not understanding the movie. Instead, it appears that not understanding the ending has nothing to do with arriving late.

Here is a word bank with transition words. Use the words in the bank to connect the clauses below. You should only use a transition word or phrase once.

Word Bank

in addition
 otherwise
 although
 therefore
 in fact
 furthermore
 similarly
 consequently
 actually
 so
 however
 nevertheless
 yet
 instead
 moreover
 particularly

- The girls wanted an ice cream cone, _____, they left the park early.
- Mother didn't have time to go to the store; _____, there was no milk in the refrigerator.
- There is no homework tonight; _____, there has been no homework this week.
- James and his team didn't finish the project; _____, they did work hard.
- You can come with us if you are ready; _____, you will have to ride the bus.
- It is important to complete your homework; _____, it should be turned in on time.
- Mrs. Simpson can be grumpy some times; _____, we should help her whenever we can.
- Students should be quiet during the play; _____, applause at the end is allowed.
- The Johnson children get an allowance every week; _____, they earn money for completing chores.
- The rhino in Africa is threatened with extinction; _____, many species of gorilla are also endangered.