

Identify the Transition Words

Transition words are used in a sentence to connect two ideas. They join clauses or sentences 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.

Circle the transition words and phrases in the sentences below.

1. I like to go to the opera; in fact, it's my favorite type of entertainment.
2. No one expected so many people at the party; consequently, we ran out of food.
3. The weather was very bad; even so, the farmer had to milk the cow.
4. The class finished the test early; therefore, they were allowed to read quietly before the bell.
5. The roof is leaking in the old house; furthermore, the brick is crumbling.
6. The teacher will accept late homework; however, she will take points off of the grade.
7. Although Tara was the last to leave class, she was the first on the bus.
8. Ed learned from his mistake. Likewise, others can learn from theirs.
9. Even though there was no one home, Walter didn't feel lonely.
10. It takes a lot of concentration to play the violin. In the same way, the piano demands the full attention of the pianist.

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