

Transitions: The Glue That Holds Your Essay Together

There are four types of transitions to focus on temporarily.

A. Transitions which signal **additional information**: The writer is presenting one (or more) idea(s) that continues along the same line of thought.

for example	second (secondly)
for instance	third (thirdly)
last of all	next
in addition	finally
first (first of all)	

Read the following examples and add one of the transitions above to indicate a transition which will provide additional information. Use a transition only once. Punctuate each sentence appropriately.

1. **Last of all** Cassie put on her swimsuit.
2. _____ we should eat fruits and vegetables, so we can be healthy.
3. _____ the contestant was crowned.
4. _____ we arrived at the carnival and bought cotton candy.
5. _____ we ate birthday cake, then I opened my presents.
6. _____ she measured the cold milk.
7. _____ the teacher opened the door, and everyone shouted, "Happy Birthday!"
8. _____ I blew out the candles.
9. _____ the baby blue jay flew from the nest.

B. Transitions which signal **time relationship**: The writer tells when something happens in relation to when something else happened. This can include order of events or steps in a process.

after	previously
soon	first (first of all)
today	second (secondly)
tomorrow	third (thirdly)
yesterday	lastly
before	later
from now on	

Read the following sentences and add one of the transitions above to indicate a transition which will provide additional information. Use the same transition only once.

10. _____ waiting in line so long, we finally ordered our food.

11. _____ the bell will ring.

12. _____ we will go to the city library.

13. _____ is our championship game.

14. _____ was the last day to order a yearbook.

15. _____ I brush my teeth, I comb my hair.

16. _____ I will ride the bus to school.

C. Transitions which signal a **comparison between two items**: The writer indicates similarities between subjects in the writing.

also	similarly
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Read the following sentences and add one of the transitions above to indicate a transition which will indicate a comparison. Use a transition only once.

17. _____ both the rose and tulip smell delightful.

18. _____ I ate a hotdog with my hamburger.

D. Transitions which signal the **contrast (difference) between items**: The writer shows the differences between subjects in writing.

although	rather than
while	

Read the following sentences and add one of the transitions above to indicate a transition which will show a contrast. Use a transition only once.

19. _____ the adults ate, the children played outside.

20. _____ having cake for my birthday, we had a pizza party.

21. _____ I made a B on my test, my grandmother was still proud of me.