



Transitional Words

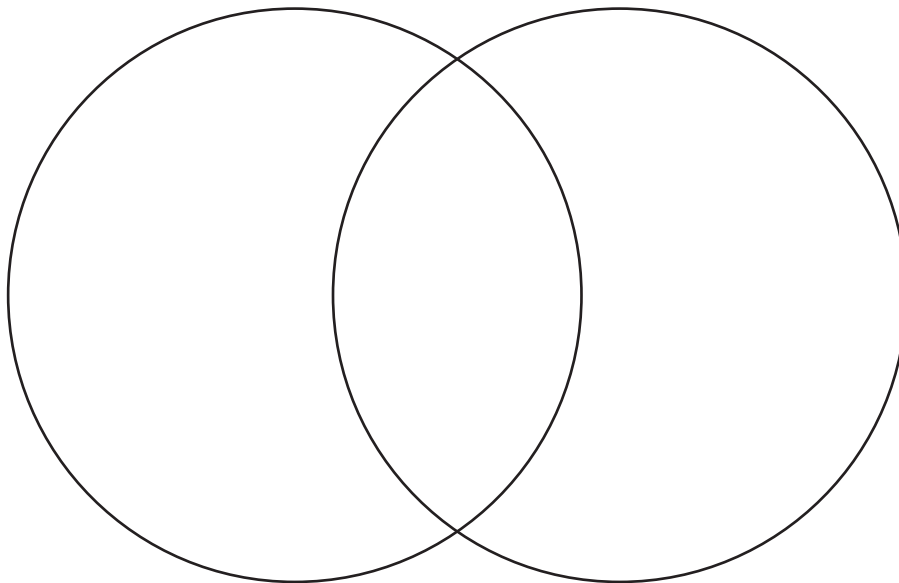
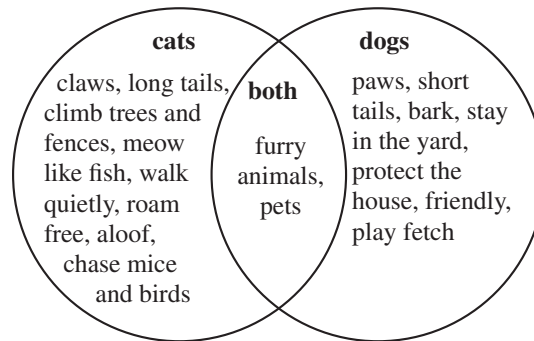
Transitional words connect one sentence to the next and serve as a bridge from one paragraph to the next. There are many categories of transitional words: to compare, to add, to prove, to explain, to repeat, to show time, to show exception, to show sequence, to show emphasis, or to summarize or conclude.

Transitional Words of Comparison

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|
| after all | but | however | nevertheless | where |
| although | by comparison | in contrast | on the contrary | whereas |
| although this may be true | compared to | meanwhile | on the other hand | yet |

PRACTICE

A Venn diagram is one way to jot down how two things are alike and different. Pick two items to compare. Write the name of one item on the left circle. Write the name of the other item on the right circle. The overlapped area is to show how the two items are alike. The separate circles are to list the difference. For guidance, see the example on the right.



WRITE ON!

On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph comparing the two items. Use transitional words of comparison in the paragraph, and underline them.



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Transitional Words of Sequence

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| after | before this | following this | second | subsequently |
| afterward | consequently | next | simultaneously | then |
| at this point | finally | now | so forth | third |
| at this time | first | previously | soon | therefore |

PRACTICE

Write the steps for doing a task. Use transitional words to connect one step to the next. Underline the transitional words used in the paragraph. For guidance, see the example below.

To wash a dog, first gather together all of the necessary items: tub, shampoo, old towels, comb or brush, large cup, and garden hose. Second, place the dog in the tub and, using the cup, begin gently prewashing the dog. Third, pour a generous amount of shampoo on the dog, and rub it into the dog's fur. Fourth, using the hose, rinse the dog. Finally, use the old towels to dry the dog, and comb out its fur.

_____ (Title of Topic)

WRITE ON!

Without using sequential words, write about how you would make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Explain this on a separate sheet of paper. Exchange papers with a classmate. Ask the classmate to add the missing sequential words to the paragraph. Do you agree with the words your classmate chose?



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Transitional Words of Emphasis

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
| absolutely | extremely | naturally | positively | unquestionably |
| always | in any case | never | surprisingly | without a doubt |
| certainly | in fact | obviously | undeniably | without reservation |
| definitely | indeed | | | |

PRACTICE

Think of a problem, issue, or idea that must be addressed in your community. (The problem, issue, or idea can be real or made-up.) Make a list of reasons why the problem needs to be addressed or idea implemented. Underline the transitional words used in the paragraph. For guidance, see the example below.

I must discuss an important problem that is showing up in our community. The problem is litter. Everywhere one goes, one can find litter where it does not belong: on the ground, in the streets, in people’s yards. Obviously, this is a horrible problem that must be handled immediately. In fact, our community must organize a cleanup day to take care of this problem. In any case, each person must be a responsible citizen and make sure that he or she puts garbage in the garbage can and not on the ground.

_____ (Idea or Problem)

Reasons:

WRITE ON!

On a separate sheet of paper, write about a problem that must be addressed at your school. Use transitional words of emphasis in your paragraph, and underline them.