**LANGUAGE ARTS10  
TRANSITIONS**

Key words are one way to show relationship between ideas. Transitions are probably not new to you. But let’s just make sure we’re all on the same page as to our understanding of transitions and our understanding of high school-level transitions.

**What is a transition?** A transition is a word or phrase that shows the reader the relationship between ideas. You probably first learned of transitions around the 6th grade when you had the 5 paragraph essay structure drilled into your brain (sorry to say, it’s permanently there…it’s still in my brain). You may have heard that transitions link ideas together or that they help the reader move from one idea to another.

**What are some examples of transitions?** First, later, next, after, however, therefore, in conclusion, in summary, to conclude, moreover, subsequently, eventually, a couple days later…

**Why use transitions?** Transitions help direct readers get to the next piece of information. Think of them this way, they’re like bridges—without them, it’s pretty hard to get anywhere. Everybody uses transitions (yup, I’m using some peer pressure here…), so you should too. They really come in handy in when you’ve got writer’s block.

**How do you use a transition word/phrase?** Frequently transition words occur at the beginning of sentences or the beginning of paragraphs. Of course, they are found in the middle of sentences, in the middle of paragraphs, and at the end of both sentences and paragraphs.   
Take Note: We’re going to focus on transitions at the beginning of sentences and paragraphs. If the word appears elsewhere, chances are it is fine (ex. “Came in first place” or “You’ll never guess what happened next,” or “Back then…”) and you do not have to eliminate it/use sparingly.

**Are all transitions created equal?** Not even close. There are the ones you memorized in 6th grade that should be used sparingly. There are many more “advanced” words you should use.

**So I can just switch out the transition words?** As long as they are in the same category, then yes. The “categories” depend on what the purpose of the transition word is.

* Addition
* Time Sequence
* Spatial Arrangement
* Comparison
* Contrast
* Cause and Effect
* Purpose
* Emphasis
* Illustration
* Summary or Clarification
* Conceding a Point

**Transition Words to Sparingly**Why are these words used sparingly? They are simple and basic. You do not want to have four sentences in a row with simple and basic transition words. Your writing gets repetitive, boring, and choppy. This is not an all-inclusive list, these are just examples.

* First, Second, Third, etc.
* Firstly, Secondly, Thirdly, etc.
* Finally
* Lastly
* Then
* Next
* Later
* In conclusion
* In summary
* For this reason
* For example
* On the other hand
* In addition

**Advanced Transition Words**  
These words are advanced because they perhaps have more syllables, have a more complicated definition, or are more frequently used in high school than in middle school. This is not an all-inclusive list, these are just examples.

* Previously
* Beyond
* Furthermore
* Moreover
* Meanwhile
* Afterward
* Likewise
* Nevertheless
* Despite
* In spite of
* However
* Consequently
* Hence
* Therefore
* Undoubtedly
* As a result
* For instance
* In other words
* Granted
* Whereas
* Although

**Let’s see it in action**: Look at the two-sided handout from McGrawHill that has some transitions on it and some examples. Study the differences between the first paragraph and the second paragraph. In the first paragraph, you may think you know how the next sentence is related, but it doesn’t specifically say. With the addition of a transition word, the meaning is much clearer.

**You Try It:** Link the two sentences together with an appropriate “advanced” transition.

1. Some students in 3rd hour did not study for *The* *Crucible* test. They earned a “C”. \_\_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Many people were hanged in *The* *Crucible*. John Proctor is one. days.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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