

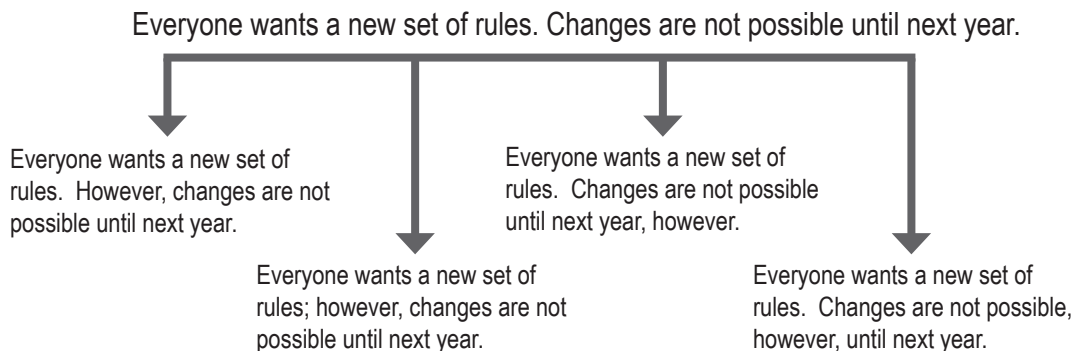
Grammar & Punctuation: Transitions

Transition Words and Their Meanings

Transitional words and phrases link ideas in one clause or sentence with those in the next. They help the reader see the relationships between ideas. Think of them as bridges linking one idea to another, or as road signs that lead the way.

Common Transitions

Adverbial Conjunctions (consequently, furthermore, however, in fact, indeed, likewise, moreover, otherwise, therefore). Look at the sentence below and the options for using adverbial conjunctions as transitions within it:



Here are some other frequently used transitional expressions and their most common uses:

- Example: specifically, for instance, for example, to illustrate, in particular, especially, most importantly
- Addition: also, furthermore, besides, likewise, moreover, again, finally, in addition, in the first (second, third) place, what is more, at last, next, beyond that
- Comparison: similarly, likewise, at the same time, in the same way, in like manner
- Contrast: however, nevertheless, still, nonetheless, conversely, rather, whereas, on the one hand, on the other hand, on the contrary, by contrast, in contrast
- Repetition: again, in other words, once again, to repeat, as stated
- Cause and Result: therefore, thus, hence, consequently, as a result, all in all, for this/that reason, because
- Conclusion: finally, then, thus, hence, therefore, in conclusion, to summarize, in short, all in all, in brief, on the whole
- Time: earlier, before, since, subsequently, eventually, gradually, meanwhile, simultaneously, now, immediately, recently, suddenly, currently, during, then, next, after a while, at last, in the meantime, until now
- Concession: doubtless, surely, certainly, naturally, granted, no doubt, admittedly
- Place: elsewhere, here, there

Things to Avoid

Avoid using “since” when you mean “because.” “Since” has a temporal meaning: from that time until now. “Because” means only one thing: for the reason that. Since the troops returned from the war, boot sales have been increasing. Have boot sales been increasing because the troops returned or only from the time they returned?.

Avoid using “while” when you mean “although.” While senators were on recess, the President was busy writing administrative orders. Do you intend to emphasize the contrast between the vacationing senators (although) and the hardworking President, or do you want to say that the President was busy but just while the senators were on break?