

Connecting Paragraphs

How to connect paragraphs cohesively

Year 6

KEY INFORMATION



When we connect paragraphs we often use something known as cohesive devices, these are also referred to as linking words, connectors and transitional words.

Cohesive devices are also used in sentences, and in the same way link ideas within different sentences together.

However, when they are used to link paragraphs they act as transitional words, smoothly connecting one paragraph to another.

COHESION



You can think of cohesion like glue holding the sentences or paragraphs together.



When the ideas within and across paragraphs link well together we say the paragraph has cohesion.

[Click Video to learn more](#)



WHAT DO COHESIVE DEVICES DO?

Cohesive devices tell the reader what we are doing in a sentence and help to guide them through our writing. They signal to the reader what the relationships are between the different clauses, sentences and paragraphs.

COHESIVE DEVICES IN PARAGRAPHS:

- Keep order in our writing.
 - Ensure that related ideas are kept together.
 - Make it easier for the reader to understand the text.
 - Help ideas flow more smoothly.
 - Provide links between ideas.
-

EXAMPLES OF COHESIVE DEVICES

Cohesive devices are in variety of word classes ranging from conjunctions all the way to adverbial phrases. They all serve the same purpose- to help the reader have a smooth transition from one idea to the next.

- Adverbial words / phrases
 - Conjunctions / Connectives
 - Determiners
 - Pronouns
 - Prepositions
 - Adverbs
-

Connecting Paragraphs

Q.

What cohesive devices have I used in my paragraphs to link my ideas together?

Typically you may have used words like *first, next, then, last*, to link paragraphs together. These are called **sequencing transitional words**. They work very well when describing an event, retelling a story, or explaining a life cycle.

However, not everything fits a chronological text structure. Sometimes, you will need to compare and contrast ideas or write about the multiple parts of a bigger topic, or even state an opinion followed by supporting reasons. Each of these types of writings also requires **transitions** to connect them, but the connections are no longer sequential. In this instance, *first, next, then, last* will no longer be appropriate linking words.

We need to make sure, that when we are connecting paragraphs with specifically chosen words they are appropriate, fit for purpose and above all cohesive. In other words, we need to make **purposeful transitions**.

Connecting Paragraphs

Answer

Connective



Pronoun



Typically you may have used words like *first, next, then, last*, to link paragraphs together. These are referred to as sequencing transitional words. They work very well when describing an event, retelling a story, or explaining a life cycle.

However, not everything fits a chronological text structure. Sometimes, you will need to compare and contrast ideas or write about the multiple parts of a bigger topic, or even state an opinion followed by supporting reasons. Each of these types of writings also requires transitions to connect them, but the connections are no longer sequential. As such,, *first, next, then, last* will no longer be appropriate linking words.

We need to make sure, that when we are connecting paragraphs with specifically chosen words that are appropriate, fit for purpose and above all cohesive.



TRANSITIONAL WORDS

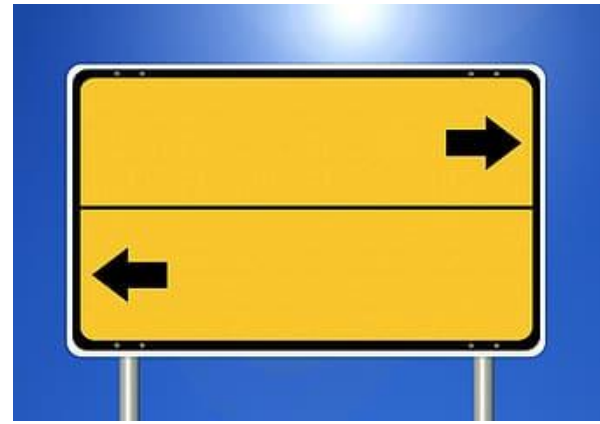
What are they?

Transitional Words

Transitional words are just another term for linking words, or connectors. We use them to tell us how sentences or paragraphs are related to one another.

They help the reader to transition from one idea to another. Think of them like road signs, alerting the reader to the kind of information coming next. Each linking word should signal to the reader the kind of information coming. Writers need to prepare their readers for a shift in ideas. If you use the wrong word it confuses the reader.

Let's learn some great transitional words so that we can ensure we connect our paragraphs appropriately.



TRANSITION WORDS BY CATEGORY

Categorising transition words helps us to use them more effectively, and help us to choose the more appropriate words for the sentence or paragraph we are writing.

Each of the these transitional words / phrases have been put into categories.

The right "sign" merges the reader from one idea to the next.

SEQUENCE:

first, second, third, next, later, then, before, during, again, until, immediately, soon after, after that, finally, at last, in the end

ILLUSTRATION:

for example, for instance, like, for one thing, such as, in this case, one reason, a second reason

CONTRAST:

unlike, although, except, contrast, the opposite, conversely, instead, in contrast, on the other hand, on the contrary, rather, yet, but, however, nevertheless

COMPARISON:

same as, but also, both, also, identically, likewise, similar, moreover, together, similarly, still

ADDITION:

also, again, as well as, besides, coupled with, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly

GENERALIZING:

generally, typically, ordinarily, usually, for the most part



EMPHASIS:

above all, chiefly, especially, particularly, singularly, namely, including, specifically

EXCEPTION:

aside from, not, but not, barring, beside, except, excepting, excluding, exclusive of, other than

CAUSE/EFFECT

since, in order to, so, caused by, because of, if... then, reasons for, reasons why, effects of

CONSEQUENCE:

consequently, as a result, for this reason, for this purpose, hence, otherwise, subsequently, therefore, thus

RESTATEMENT:

in essence, in other words, in short, in brief, to put it differently, to say it again another way, this means

SUMMARIZING:

after all, all things considered, to sum up, to summarize, finally, in conclusion, in summary, in the long run

The right “sign” merges the reader from one idea to the next.

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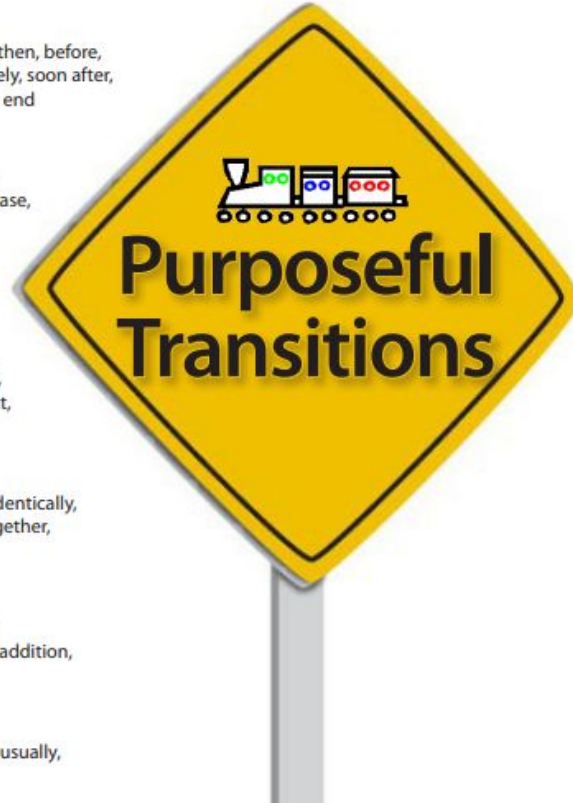
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It is important that when using transition words we choose them carefully.

Doing this allows us to signpost the reader to from idea to another, cohesively.

Purposeful Transitions Activity EXAMPLE

You are going to be asked to pick the appropriate transition word to connect two sentence or paragraphs. Below is an example.

1

Sam was on edge and didn't want to sit down.

Joseph stood with his hands tucked in his pockets, waiting.

*Those two sentences are depicting two students acting differently. Now I look at my **sheet**, and I find a category that fits that. They are **contrasting** details, so I should choose a word from the **contrast** category..*

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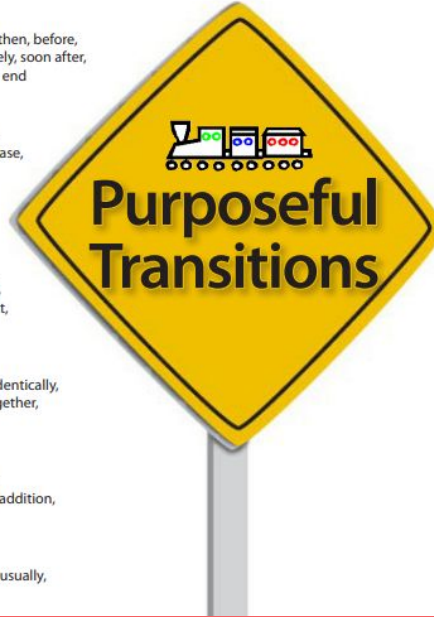
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Purposeful Transitions Activity 2

Now it's your turn.

Refer to purposeful transition words.

Which transitional word would you use in this example?

Think about the purpose of the sentences we are connecting.



German Shepherds can be good watch dogs.

Insert text here

If you want to keep your home safe, a German Shepherd is a good breed to consider.

The right "sign" merges the reader from one idea to the next.

SEQUENCE:

first, second, third, next, later, then, before, during, again, until, immediately, soon after, after that, finally, at last, in the end

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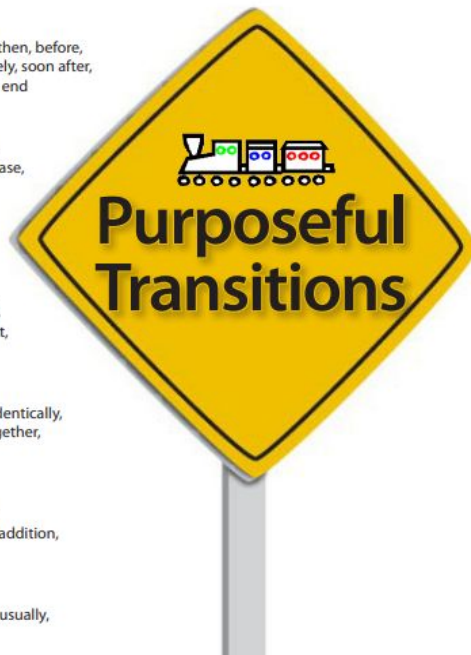
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Which category of transition words did you choose? For example **summarizing**, **cause/ effect** etc.

Insert answer here

Purposeful Transitions Activity 2

ANSWER

*The first sentence was about watch dogs, and the second sentence is more about watch dogs. It's basically saying the same thing again. As I look at the list, I'm thinking it's a **restatement**.*

German Shepherds can be good watch dogs.

2

In other words,

If you want to keep your home safe, a German Shepherd is a good breed to consider.

The right "sign" merges the reader from one idea to the next.

SEQUENCE:

first, second, third, next, later, then, before, during, again, until, immediately, soon after, after that, finally, at last, in the end

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Category of transition word is **RESTATEMENT** - *you are making the same statement just wording it differently.*

Purposeful Transitions Activity 3

Refer to purposeful transition words.

Which transitional word would you use in this example?

Think about the purpose of the sentences we are connecting.

Babe Ruth was a great baseball player who excelled at both pitching and batting.

3

Insert text here

He was remembered for his ability to slug big home runs out of the ballpark.

The right "sign" merges the reader from one idea to the next.

SEQUENCE:

first, second, third, next, later, then, before, during, again, until, immediately, soon after, after that, finally, at last, in the end

ILLUSTRATION:

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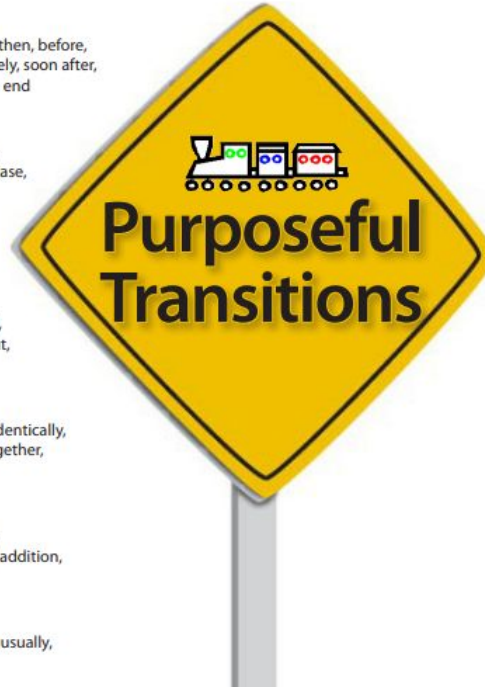
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Which category of transition words did you choose? For example **summarising**, **cause/ effect** etc.

Insert answer here

Purposeful Transitions Activity 4

Refer to purposeful transition words.

Which transitional word would you use in this example?

Think about the purpose of the sentences we are connecting.

When Bobby makes a sandwich, he likes to use every topping that we have in our refrigerator. Whether it is ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, or jelly, there is nothing that he will refuse to put between the slices of bread.

4

Insert text here

Bobby even said that he loves putting chocolate syrup on his sandwich! All his friends think Bobby's sandwiches are gross, but he still enjoys devouring his hearty hoagies.

The right "sign" merges the reader from one idea to the next.

SEQUENCE:

first, second, third, next, later, then, before, during, again, until, immediately, soon after, after that, finally, at last, in the end

ILLUSTRATION:

for example, for instance, like, for one thing, such as, in this case, one reason, a second reason

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after all, all things considered, to sum up, to summarize, finally, in conclusion, in summary, in the long run



Which category of transition words did you choose? For example **summarizing**, **cause/ effect** etc.

Insert answer here

ACTIVITY ANSWERS

Sam was on edge and didn't want to sit down.

1

On the other hand,

Joseph stood with his hands tucked in his pockets, waiting.

Babe Ruth was a great baseball player who excelled at both pitching and batting.

3

Above all

He was remembered for his ability to slug big home runs out of the ballpark.

German Shepherds can be good watch dogs.

2

In other words,

If you want to keep your home safe, a German Shepherd is a good breed to consider.

When Bobby makes a sandwich, he likes to use every topping that we have in our refrigerator. Whether it is ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, or jelly, there is nothing that he will refuse to put between the slices of bread.

4

Furthermore,

Bobby even said that he loves putting chocolate syrup on his sandwich! All his friends think Bobby's sandwiches are gross, but he still enjoys devouring his hearty hoagies.

*The first sentence is about Babe Ruth being a good pitcher and a good batter. The next sentence is an extra something about just the batting. This extra info is **emphasizing** something.*

*The first sentence describes all the things Bobby puts on a sandwich. The second sentence lists more. It's providing **additional** information on the same point.*

YOUR GRAMMAR TASK!

In year 6 you are to produce writing that shows a range of devices to aid cohesion.

Your final task will be to develop the 3 paragraphs below. These paragraphs are linked to your literacy task. You are to use a range of cohesive devices, to connect these paragraphs. You can expand and develop them if you wish, and incorporate them into your literacy task. You must:

- Make a key for each device used
- Use the most appropriate words/ phrases to connect the paragraphs together
- Consider where you are trying to signpost the reader
- Check for cohesion

Paragraph 1

Troy Driver stared wide-eyed at the one artifact that had eluded him for so many years; the single most important discover for a century: The Eye of Horus.

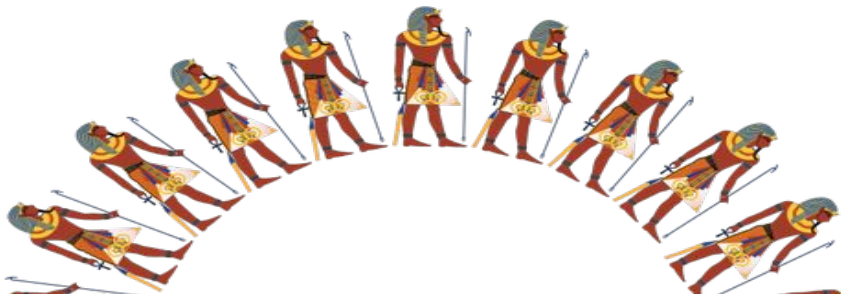
Paragraph 2

The fiery, golden light, that flowed so powerfully from the eye, blinded him momentarily; and was then one. The deathly silence, and darkness, that followed, concerned him deeply -surely it wasn't going to be this easy?

Paragraph 3

He reached respectfully for the eye, picked it up and stowed it away immediately in his shoulder bag; he turned to leave. The unsettling feeling he had, suggested his exit should be swift.

See next page
to complete
your task



Name:
 Class:
 Date:

At that moment, Troy Driver stared wide-eyed at the one artifact that had eluded him for so many years; the single most important discover for a century: The Eye of Horus.

The fiery, golden light, that flowed so powerfully from the eye, blinded him momentarily; and was then one. The deathly silence, and darkness, that followed, concerned him deeply -surely it wasn't going to be this easy?

He reached respectfully for the eye, picked it up and stowed it away immediately in his shoulder bag; he turned to leave. The unsettling feeling he had, suggested his exit should be swift.

Cohesive Device	Transitional word / phrase	Key	Category of transition word
Time Adverbial	At that moment		Sequencing

The first is an example

Please share completed paragraphs via your Blog or @yr6peagsusacademytrust.org

I can identify a wide range of cohesive devices, explain how they can be used to link ideas across paragraphs and apply them in my own writing.		
I can identify cohesive devices.		
I can describe the effect created by different cohesive devices.		
I can select and apply appropriate cohesive devices to my own writing.		

Success Criteria