



Use of Connectors and Transitions in English:

Creating Coherent Texts

Important:



At the end of this presentation, there is a link to a short Microsoft Forms quiz. You must score at least 80% on the quiz to pass.

We encourage you to study the module carefully before taking the quiz.

Objectives

- After studying this module, students will be able to:
 - Have a resource to diversify connectors in writing
 - Understand the importance of coherency
 - Improve in academic writing

Table of Contents

- Slide 5: Introduction to Connectors and Transitions
- Slide 8: Main Types With Examples
- Slide 17: Other Types
- Slide 24: References
- Slide 25: Short Quiz Link

Introduction to Connectors and Transitions⁴

Preface

- It should be noted that connectors come in various shapes and sizes and are not limited to any list. The most important thing is to ensure variety and clarity when we write and avoid starting each sentence with one or two words repeatedly throughout a piece of writing.

What are connectors and transitions?

- **Signal** words and phrases are also called **transitional** words and phrases
- They guide the reader from one sentence to the next, **making each paragraph an integrated whole**
- In other words, they help make writing something **more than just a series of separate sentences²**
- There are different types of connectors, each unique in how they establish a connection between sentences

The Importance of Connectors and Transitions

- Connectors are a major part of making writing coherent
- **In other words**, connectors help as a service to the reader, **much like traffic signals** help drivers understand what is happening on the road
- They can be used within sentences as well as **between sentences, paragraphs, or even major sections of academic papers**

Main Types With Examples⁴

Transitions to help establish some of the most common kinds of relationships

Causation / *Causalidad*

They connect instigator(s) to consequence(s): accordingly, as a result, and, so because, consequently, for that reason, hence, on account of, since, therefore, thus

Examples:

Noah came prepared for his driver's test. **Hence**, he passed.

Noah vino preparado para su examen de conducir. Por eso pasó.

The flowerpot fell to the ground and, **as a result**, the boy got in trouble.

La maceta cayó al suelo y, **como resultado**, el niño se metió en problemas.

Chronology / *Cronología*

They connect something with when or how it occurred: after, afterwards, always, at length, during, earlier, following, immediately, in the meantime, later, never, next, now, once, simultaneously, so far, sometimes, soon, subsequently, then, this time, until now, when, whenever, while

Examples:

Sam took the turkey out of the oven. **In the meantime**, the family sat together at the table.

Sam sacó el pavo del horno. **Mientras tanto**, la familia se sentó junta a la mesa.

A big storm has hit the city of New York. **So far**, there has been no flooding.

Una gran tormenta ha pasado por la ciudad de Nueva York. **Hasta ahora**, no han habido inundaciones.

Combinations / *Combinaciones*

Lists: Connecting numerous events.

Part/Whole: Connecting numerous elements that make up something bigger.

Additionally, again; also; and, or, not; as a result, besides, even more, finally; first, firstly; further, furthermore, in addition, in the first place, in the second place; last, lastly; moreover, next, second, secondly, etc., too

Example:

That morning, the flowers were blooming, **and** the sun was bright.

Esa mañana, las flores estaban floreciendo **y** el sol brillaba.

Contrast / *Contraste*

They connect two things by focusing on their differences: after all, although, and yet, at the same time, but, despite, however, in contrast, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, on the contrary, on the other hand, otherwise, though, yet

Example:

Despite being amateurs, the band sold out the tickets for the venue.

A **pesar** de ser aficionados, la banda agotó las entradas para el recinto.

In this example, we see this otherwise transitional word working more as a signal as opposed to directly joining two clauses.

Example / *Ejemplo*

They connect a general idea to a particular instance of this idea: as an illustration, e.g. (from a Latin abbreviation for “for example”), for example, for instance, specifically, that is, to demonstrate, to illustrate

Example:

There are other groups of people who do not eat meat, **for instance**, pescatarians.

Hay otros grupos de personas que no comen carne, **por ejemplo** los pescatarianos.

Importance / *Importancia*

They connect what is critical to what is more inconsequential: chiefly, critically, foundationally, most importantly, of less importance, primarily, notably, especially

Examples:

The library had to remove the dust from the bookshelves, **especially** toward the top.

La biblioteca tuvo que quitar el polvo de las estanterías, **especialmente** en la parte superior.

Writing a good essay takes time. **Most importantly**, it is a matter of organization.

Escribir un buen ensayo lleva tiempo. **Lo más importante** es que es una cuestión de organización.

The second demonstrates how *conectores lógicos* in Spanish and transitional phrases in English do not always correlate, but the idea of coherency is the same.

Location / *Lugar*

They connect elements according to where they are placed in relationship with each other: above, adjacent to, below, beyond, centrally, here, nearby, neighboring, opposite to, peripherally, there, wherever

Example:

The lamp was sitting on the desk. **Nearby**, there was a candle.

La lámpara estaba sobre el escritorio. **Cerca** había una vela.

This example is an instance in which regular words, such as neighboring or nearby, can be integrated in a way that connects two sentences, showing that there are many possibilities when it comes to transitions in speech.

Similarity / *Similitud*

These connect two things by means of similarity: by the same token, in like manner, in similar fashion, here, in the same way, likewise, wherever

Example:

The key to giving a good speech is addressing your audience. **Likewise**, keeping the audience engaged is critical.

La clave para dar un buen discurso es dirigirse a su audiencia. **Asimismo**, mantener a la audiencia interesada es fundamental.

Other Types⁴

Further connectors & transitions

Clarification / *Clarificación*

i.e., (from a Latin abbreviation for “that is”), in other words, that is, that is to say, to clarify, to explain, to put it another way, to rephrase it

Example:

I haven't eaten all day, i.e., I'm starving.

No he comido en todo el día, ~~es decir~~, me muero de hambre.

Concession / *Concesión*

granted, it is true, naturally, of course, to be sure

Example:

The teacher is incredible at his job; **granted**, he is impatient sometimes.

El profesor es increíble en su trabajo; **aunque es cierto** que a veces se muestra impaciente.

Conclusion / *Conclusión*

Finally, lastly, in conclusion, in the end, to conclude

Examples:

Finally, the train reached our station.

Finalmente el tren llegó a su estación.

Intensification / *Intesificación*

in fact, indeed, no, of course, surely, to repeat, undoubtedly, without doubt, yes, to reiterate

Examples:

The roller coaster was super fun! **Without a doubt**, it was very scary, but it was worth it.

¡La montaña rusa fue súper divertida! **Sin duda** fue muy aterrador, pero valió la pena.

Purpose / *Propósito*

for this purpose, in order that, so that, to that end, to this end

Examples:

Running was not allowed **so that** kids would not slip and hurt themselves at the pool.

No se permitía correr **para que** los niños no se resbalaran y se lastimaran en la piscina.

He wanted science students to take an interest in the arts, and **to this end**, he ran literature classes at his home on Sunday afternoons.³

Quería que los estudiantes de ciencias se interesaran por las artes, y **para ello** impartía clases de literatura en su casa los domingos por la tarde.

Summary / *Resumen*

in brief, in sum, in summary, in short, to sum up, to summarize

Examples:

Tim and Miguel were very good friends. **In short**, they were as close as brothers.

Tim y Miguel eran muy buenos amigos. **En resumen**, eran tan cercanos como hermanos.

Summary / *Resumen*

in brief, in sum, in summary, in short, to sum up, to summarize

Examples:

Tim and Miguel were very good friends. **In short**, they were as close as brothers.

Tim y Miguel eran muy buenos amigos. **En resumen**, eran tan cercanos como hermanos.

Referencias

Albers. (n.d.). Lesson plan: Using signal words and phrases. San José State University.
<https://www.sjsu.edu/aanapisi/docs/patriciaalbers.pdf>

Bamberg, B. (1983). What Makes a Text Coherent? *College Composition and Communication*, 34(4), 417–429. <https://doi.org/10.2307/357898>

to this end. (2023, November 29). <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/to-this-end#>

Transitional Words and Phrases. (n.d.). The Writing Center.
<https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/style/transitions/#3>

After completing the module, click on the following link to take the quiz and send the report to your professor:

<https://forms.office.com/r/bxwqwtzyAt>

Thanks for using our services!



To know more about our Center and the services we provide, visit:

<https://generales.uprrp.edu/competencias-linguisticas/>