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## TRANSITIONAL WORDS OR PHRASES

### Devices for Linking

Ideas and sentences must be linked together intelligibly if the reader is to follow the sequence of thought. There are various devices for doing this, and we can classify these devices in a variety of ways. We can, for example, classify them on the basis of whether they are **inter-sentential** (links that connect one sentence to another) or **intra-sentential** (links that connect one part of a sentence to another part of the same sentence – clauses, word groups, morphemes). Examples of the first type are *therefore*, *thus*, *consequently*, *in addition*, *however*. These connectives, which join two sentences, may assume various positions within the second sentences. They indicate meaning relationships between the sentences, such as result, addition, and contrast. Examples of the second type, which join parts of a sentence, are *although*, *because*, *when*, *as*, *since*. Like the first type, they also indicate meaning relationships – concessive, causal, temporal; and at the same time, they perform the grammatical function of subordination. We should note, however, that the inter-sentential / intra-sentential dichotomy is not clear-cut and that some connectives, such as *and*, *but*, and *also*, function in both areas.

Another way of classifying devices for linking is on the basis of their function: whether it is mainly logical, mainly grammatical, or mainly lexical. This criterion, which I will use here, is a simpler one for pedagogical purposes.

The list of connectors below is intended to be illustrative rather than comprehensive<sup>1</sup>. You will notice that the emphasis is on the relationship between sentences rather than between parts of sentences.

### I. Logical Connectors or Transitional Words or Phrases

The word *transitional* is a broad term used to cover all words or phrases that help the reader or writer move from one sentence to another or from one idea to another in the same sentence or in a different sentence. It is not a syntactic term; it is a semantic term referring to certain kinds of relationships. This category includes coordinators, adverbials, sentence connectors, etc. The following list includes the most common transitional words or phrases and the relationships they express.

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#### Addition and Comparison

<i>Addition</i>	again	furthermore
	also	in addition
	and	too
	and then	indeed
	equally important	in fact

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<sup>1</sup> This is an adaption of the list given by Ann Eljenbolm Nichols on page 149 of *English Syntax* (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1965).

	further	moreover besides
<b>Comparison</b>	in (a) like manner in the same way	likewise similarly
<b>Result</b>	accordingly consequently hence then	therefore thus as a result thereby (+ing)
<b>Contrast and Concession</b>	after all but despite (+noun) for all that however in contract in spite of (+noun) nevertheless notwithstanding on the contrary	on the other hand still yet whereas while and yet at the same time granted naturally of course perhaps
<b>Passage of Time</b>	after a short time after a while afterwards at last lately	presently shortly since then temporarily then thereafter (formal)
<b>Enumeration</b>	first(ly) second(ly) third, etc.	finally next last
<b>Example</b>	for example for instance incidentally in particular namely	specifically that is particularly in other words such as
<b>Summary</b>	in brief in conclusion in short	to conclude on the whole to summarize

Here are some examples to illustrate these relationships:

<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
<b><i>Addition and comparison</i></b>	

<i>Addition</i>	Money is a medium of exchange. It is <b>also</b> a measure of the value of goods and services.
<i>Comparison</i>	The collective investments of a large bank are far more secure than the investments of the small branches. <b>Similarly</b> , the insurance benefits payable by a large company can be more accurately foreseen than the benefits payable by a small one.
<b>contrast</b>	Some people work in the production of goods and some others help to distribute these goods. <b>However</b> , there are other people who are not concerned with production or distributions: they supply services to us.
<b>Concession</b>	Many studies of the development of young children have tended to emphasize and re-emphasize that the needs of a child for continuous care by each own mother or a mother substitute is essential for mental and even physical health. Most of this evidence, <b>it is true</b> , relates to western countries, especially the United States and Britain.
<b>Result</b>	A mother may work very hard looking after her children, but she does not get paid for that work. Her work is not, <b>therefore</b> , labor in the strict economic sense.
<b>Passage of time</b>	A consumer continues to buy the commodity so long as its utility is greater than the price. <b>After a while</b> the utility will decrease because the consumer has had enough of the commodity. So, he will stop buying it.
<b>Enumeration</b>	The task of sociology is first to understand the differences between societies and cultures. <b>Secondly</b> , we are concerned with understanding the process of social change.
<b>Example</b>	Human behavior is determined by the social environment in which the individual is born. <b>For example</b> , if we remove the newborn Sudanese from the social environment into which he has come and transplant him to an utterly alien one, he will undoubtedly acquire his social behavior from the alien society.
<b>Summary</b>	By the term value economists mean value in exchange. Any commodity that can be exchanged has value, however trivial. The value of commodity, thus, means the commodities or services that we can get in return for it; it is, <b>in short</b> , its purchasing power in terms of other commodities and services.

**Source:** *Tadros / A Look beyond the Sentence*  
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