

# Transitions and Relationships Within/Between Sentences

## Part 2

**Transitions** are key pattern words and phrases that signal the logical relationships *within* and *between* sentences. Transitions help you make sense of an author's idea in two basic ways. First, transitions join ideas *within* a sentence. Second, transitions establish patterns of organization so you can understand the logical flow of ideas *between* sentences. Without transitions the author's point may be unclear.

Read the following sentences:

*I love drinking coffee. It keeps me awake at night.*

The lack of transition makes the author's point unclear. Does the writer love drinking coffee *because* it keeps him awake at night? Or does he like drinking coffee *even though* it keeps him awake at night? To make the author's point clear, a transition is needed. Here are the same two ideas, with a suitable transition added within the sentence:

*I love drinking coffee **even though** it keeps me awake at night.*

Now the author's point is clear. He likes drinking coffee in spite of its keeping him awake at night.

Now read the sentence again. This time a different transition is used:

*I love drinking coffee **because** it keeps me awake at night.*

Notice how the transition *because* gives the sentence a different meaning. The author wishes to be kept awake at night, so he drinks coffee.

### **Transitions Within a Sentence**

Read the following sentence:

*Not only does academic cheating rob the cheating student of knowledge, it can **also** severely damage that student's reputation.*

The topic of this sentence is cheating. The author makes two points about cheating. The transition word **also** indicates the addition of a second point.

### **Transitions Between Sentences**

Read the following sentences:

*Martha Stewart had achieved remarkable success and enormous wealth by making smart business decisions. **However**, in 2002, she made an unwise decision about a stock market trade that caused her to resign from her position as chair of her company, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.*

The first sentence describes Martha Stewart as successful and smart. The second sentence offers a stark contrast by stating she made an "unwise" and damaging decision. The transition word **however** signals this contrast.

## Practice Exercises

Read the following pairs of sentences. Circle the one in each pair that is more clear.

1.	a. Mitch went for a job interview. He got a hair cut and shaved off his mustache. b. Before Mitch went for the job interview, he got a haircut and shaved off his mustache.
2.	a. For many people, the first day on a new job is a scary experience. Similarly, the first class in college can be a frightening event. b. For many people, the first day on a new job is a scary experience. The first class in college can be a frightening event.
3.	a. The dog next door barks a lot. She is loveable. b. Although the dog next door barks a lot at night, she is loveable.
4.	a. The baby refused to eat her breakfast. As a result, I was in a bad mood all morning. b. The baby refused to eat her breakfast. I was in a bad mood all morning.

Fill in the blank with the appropriate transition word or phrase from the box. Then circle the relationship made by the transition.

Transitions					
like	because	moreover	also	then	such as

5. First the weather reporter said showers were likely. \_\_\_\_\_ it started to rain.

The transition shows:    a. time order    b. contrast    c. listing

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Marta liked the instructor, she decided to take her for another course.

The transition shows:    a. comparison    b. time order    c. cause and effect

7. To avoid drunk drivers, I stay home on New Year's Eve. I \_\_\_\_\_ stay off the road late at night.

The transition shows:    a. addition    b. time order    c. contrast

8. Bad habits \_\_\_\_\_ nail biting and overeating often begin in childhood.

The transition shows:    a. time order    b. addition    c. example

9. The sailboat sped through the water \_\_\_\_\_ a hot knife cutting through warm butter.

The transition shows:    a. contrast    b. cause and effect    c. comparison

10. Stainless steel never rusts or cracks. \_\_\_\_\_, it can take great changes in temperature.

The transition shows:    a. time order    b. addition    c. cause and effect

Answers: 1. B, 2. A, 3. B, 4. A, 5. Then, a, 6. Because, c, 7. also, a, 8. such as, c, 9. Like, c, 10. Moreover, b