

Transitional Words and Phrases

Reading and Discussion

Here is a short paragraph for you to read:

Yesterday I went walking. I don't walk in the mornings. The sun was shining and I felt like some exercise. I saw lots of different animals such as birds, squirrels, butterflies, and rabbits. I decided to walk further than usual to see how many more I could spot. I reached the pathway which would take me home. I was enjoying myself so much I decided to carry on. The weather was still warm, although the clouds were beginning to gather. I was quite far from home when the rain came down. It was only a gentle shower, but it soon started falling more heavily. By the time I got home I was wet through and quite cold.

Now read this one:

Yesterday I went walking. **Generally** I don't walk in the mornings. **However**, today the sun was shining and I felt like some exercise. **During my walk**, I saw lots of different animals such as birds, squirrels, butterflies, and rabbits. **As a result**, I decided to walk further than usual to see how many more I could spot. **Finally**, I reached the pathway which would take me home. **However**, I was enjoying myself so much I decided to carry on. **Besides**, the weather was still warm, *although* the clouds were beginning to gather. **As a result**, I was quite far from home when the rain came down. **To begin with**, it was only a gentle shower, but it soon started falling more heavily. **Consequently**, by the time I got home I was wet through and quite cold.

What is the difference between these two paragraphs? The words in **bold** are called *transitional words* or *phrases*. They help to link the sentences and make the story sound better. We also use transitional words and phrases to link together two ideas in a sentence, or to link paragraphs. The word 'although' in *italics* is an example.

There are many types of transitional words. Some of those used in the paragraph are transitional words of **time**, for example, *finally* and *during*; some are transitional words of **contrast**, for example, *however*; some are transitional words of **result**, for example, *consequently*; and some are transitional words of **addition**, for example, *besides*.

Name _____

Date _____

Activities:

Activity A: Join the sentences.

Here are 11 separate sentences. See if you can use them in a paragraph by linking them with transitional words or phrases. You can choose from the words and phrases provided in the box on the right.

- The sun was setting;
- It would be completely dark;
- The little rabbit didn't go out at night;
- Tonight was different;
- She had found a nice carrot patch;
- She had spent a long time enjoying the carrots;
- She noticed it was getting dark;
- It was too late to get back to her burrow;
- She started looking for a place to shelter for the night;
- She found shelter in a hollow next to a log;
- She was able to settle down for the night.

At last
But
During the day
Eventually
Finally
However
Immediately
So
Soon
Usually

Activity B: Write your own.

Now choose five of the transitional words or phrases in the box below and write your own paragraphs. Use the transitional words to link your sentences.

afterwards, also, as well as, at last, at the same time, before, first, for example, immediately, in fact, later, meanwhile, next, not only, once, otherwise, previously, then, therefore, too, usually.

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Sheet

Activity A

The sun was setting.

Soon it would be completely dark.

Usually the little rabbit didn't go out at night,

But tonight was different.

During the day she had found a nice carrot patch,

So she had spent a long time enjoying the carrots.

Finally, she noticed it was getting dark.

However, it was too late to get back to her burrow.

Immediately, she started looking for a place to shelter for the night.

Eventually, she found shelter in a hollow next to a log.

At last she was able to settle down for the night.

Activity B

There is no restriction to what the children write except that the transitional words and phrases chosen should be correctly placed and the writing should 'flow' as a result.