Transition Words: Connecting Ideas

Transition words are used in a sentence to connect two ideas. They join clauses together to show a difference or a connection.

**Example 1:** We arrived late at the movie, so we didn’t understand the ending.

In Example 1, the word *so* connects two clauses to show a result. It was *because* we were late that we didn’t understand the ending. The meaning of the two clauses is clearer than if each stood alone.

**Example 2:** We arrived late at the movie. We didn’t understand the ending.

In Example 2, the two ideas are separate. There is no connection with arriving late and not understanding the movie. Instead, it appears that not understanding the ending has nothing to do with arriving late.

Here is a word bank with transition words. Use the words in the bank to connect the clauses below. You should only use a transition word or phrase once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Bank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in addition</td>
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<tr>
<td>otherwise</td>
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<tr>
<td>although</td>
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<td>therefore</td>
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<td>in fact</td>
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<td>furthermore</td>
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<td>similarly</td>
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<td>consequently</td>
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<td>moreover</td>
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<td>particularly</td>
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1. The girls wanted an ice cream cone, ___________________________________
   they left the park early.

2. Mother didn’t have time to go to the store; ________________________
   there was no milk in the refrigerator.

3. There is no homework tonight; _______________________________
   there has been no homework this week.

4. James and his team didn’t finish the project; ______________________
   they did work hard.

5. You can come with us if you are ready; ___________________________
   you will have to ride the bus.

6. It is important to complete your homework; _______________________
   it should be turned in on time.

7. Mrs. Simpson can be grumpy some times; __________________________
   we should help her whenever we can.

8. Students should be quiet during the play; _________________________
   applause at the end is allowed.

9. The Johnson children get an allowance every week; __________________
   they earn money for completing chores.

10. The rhino in Africa is threatened with extinction; __________________
    many species of gorilla are also endangered.
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Student’s answers will vary; examples of correct answers:

1. The girls wanted an ice cream cone, ____________________________ they left the park early.
2. Mother didn’t have time to go to the store; ______________________, there was no milk in the refrigerator.
3. There is no homework tonight; ______________________________, there has been no homework this week.
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