

# THE FUNCTION OF TRANSITIONAL WORDS

## TO ADD ANOTHER THOUGHT

- Besides
- What's more
- Furthermore
- In addition

## TO ADD AN EXAMPLE

- For example
- For instance
- In other words

## TO ADD EMPHASIS TO AN IDEA

- In fact
- As a matter of fact

## TO HIGHLIGHT WHAT FOLLOWS

- Therefore
- Consequently
- As a result

## TO GRANT AN EXCEPTION

- Of course
- To be sure
- Though
- Still

- However
- On the other hand
- Nevertheless
- Rather

## TO ARRANGE IDEAS IN ORDER, TIME, OR SPACE

- First
- Next
- Finally
- Meanwhile
- Later
- Afterwards
- Nearby
- Eventually
- Above
- Beyond

## TO SUM UP SEVERAL IDEAS

- In short
- In brief
- To sum up
- In summary
- In conclusion

## Examples

Two postal cards are often more effective than one letter. *Besides*, they are cheaper.

He has lost confidence in his game. *For example*, he got nervous at the end of the match yesterday.

Last week I was ill; *in fact*, I had to stay in bed until Monday.

The President vetoed the bill. *Consequently*, it never became a law.

He said he would study all day. I doubt it, *though*.

*First*, drink some fruit juice. *Next*, have a bowl of soup. *Then* eat the quiche. *Finally*, have some pie and coffee for dessert.

Scientists say that we should eat food that has all the proteins, fats, and vitamins we need. *In short*, they recommend a balanced diet.

## Your turn!

Below are sentences with misused transition words. Cross out the incorrect transition words and write a better one in the space below the sentence.

1. Tim earned an A on the test; **even so**, Justin also received an A.
2. Two kittens are often more effective than one pure bred dog. **Later**, they are cheaper.
3. The book was interesting; **as a result**, it was hard to read.
4. Gordon finished his chores early; **meanwhile**, he had time to play football.
5. Sarah's horse is beautiful; **instead**, it is well-bred.
6. Jenny said he would apologize to Ben. I doubt it, **above**.
7. The sailors prepared the ship to sail; **otherwise**, the dock workers loaded the cargo.
8. Her sister had a cold; **however**, Julie's family canceled the trip.
9. Oranges are good for you; **nevertheless**, they are full of vitamin C.
10. Two seats were left on the bus; **similarly**, most of the group had to wait for the next one.