

**Lesson: Focus revision on a specific element as: transitional words**

**Fourth Grade Objective:** 4.083 remediation

**Lesson**

1. When writing stories, authors connect ideas and actions to one another by using transitional words. Because the author is able to establish the connection among ideas, the reader is able to follow the story logically from beginning to end. Transitional words help organize the story events.
2. Some examples of transitional words can be found in the box below:

<b>Transitional Words</b>		
Shortly after that	Meanwhile	Along the way . . .
Before long	Earlier	Soon
At that very moment	Finally	Next
As soon as . . . .	Later	No sooner . . .
When	While	
For example	Without warning	Mainly
Otherwise	Also	Even though
Furthermore		

3. Let's look at some examples of how to use transitional words to connect ideas. First, let's look at the following sentences.

- Sam and I went to the park. Tim went fishing.

Neither of these sentences contain transitional words. It is unclear to the reader how the events are related to one another. Did they occur at the same time? Did one happen as a result of the other? Did they occur at separate times? Now look at the sentences below that include transitions. Notice how the use of the transitions help to show the relationship between the two ideas.

- ***While*** Sam and I went to the park, Tim went fishing.
- Sam and I went to the park. ***Shortly after that***, Tim went fishing.
- ***Because*** Sam and I went to the park. Tim decided to go fishing.

The transitional words (words in bold italicized print) show the relationship between the two sentences. The first sentence shows that Tim went fishing during the time period when Sam and I were at the park. The second sentence shows that Tim went fishing a little bit after Sam and I went to the park. The third sentence shows that Tim decided to go fishing because Sam and I were at the park. Any of these transitions are appropriate to use, but they change the relationship of the ideas in the sentences.

### Try these on your own!

Use a transitional word or phrase from the box above to show the relationship between the following sentences:

1. I set a glass of water on the table. The glass toppled over.

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2. I went to the game. My parents met me there.

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3. I have to stay home and study. I would like to go to the game.

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4. My daughter is taking a nap. I am working.

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5. I arrived at school. I realized that I left my homework on the kitchen table.

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### Check your answers

The following are examples of transitional words or phrases that could be used. There are many possible answers.

1. I set a glass of water on the table. **Without warning**, the glass toppled over.
2. I went to the game. **Shortly after**, my parents met me there.
3. I have to stay home and study. **Otherwise**, I would like to go to the game.
4. **While** my daughter is taking a nap, I am working.
5. **As soon as** I arrived at school, I realized that I left my homework on the kitchen table.

### More Practice

1. Search for examples of transitional words or phrases in books that you read. After you identify the transitional word or phrase, think about how the transitions show the relationship between those ideas.
2. Revise one of your stories for transitions by connecting ideas and actions with some of the transitional phrases in the box above.