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| **Using** [**Transition Words**](https://webmail.ci.stamford.ct.us/owa/redir.aspx?C=Gh50oqWCRkG0MT67pz5-CsnRpkdX0NAI0gNlg8ijSuWypRQnI3nlPHYUoR0BhGPdReWb3fmvRQU.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.dailywritingtips.com%2ftransition-words%2f) **to Connect Ideas** |

Transition words and phrases keep the reader on track by showing relationships between ideas and information.

**Consider the following paragraph:**

People who adopt a dog need to teach it basic commands. Basic obedience keeps the animal safe and prevents it from becoming a danger. Many pet owners fail to teach their dogs to obey. They should always consider the need to train their puppies to obey.

**The paragraph revised:**

People who adopt a dog need to teach it basic commands **in order to** keep it safe and prevent it from harming others. **For example**, a dog that won’t come when called might run into the street and be hit by a car. A dog not trained to keep from jumping on people could cause injury by knocking someone down. **Unfortunately**, many pet owners fail to teach their dogs to obey, and, **as a result**, the animal becomes a nuisance or danger to family and strangers alike. **To avoid** undesirable behavior in their pets, dog owners should always consider the need to train puppies in basic obedience.

**Here is a list of transition words grouped according to the types of transition they can be used for:**

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| **To add information:** and, not only…but also, also, moreover, furthermore, in addition, equally important, | **To give examples:** for example, specifically, in particular | **To show contrast:** but, however, on the other hand, otherwise, instead, in contras |
| **To show concession:** yet, nevertheless, however, although, even though, despite the fact that, despite | **To show similarity:** likewise, similarly, in the same way | **To show result:** so, as a result, therefore, thus, as a consequence, consequently |
| **To indicate time or sequence:** first, second, finally, meanwhile, immediately, thereafter, soon, finally, previously, formerly, next, following this, after, soon, therefore | | |

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| **Using Topic Sentences to Improve Clarity** |

A topic sentence is the most important sentence in a [paragraph](http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples/examples-of-paragraph-development.html). The topic sentence helps organize the paragraph by summarizing the information in the paragraph. In formal writing, the topic sentence is usually the first sentence in a paragraph.

A topic sentence essentially tells readers what the rest of the paragraph is about.

All sentences after it have to:

* give **more information** about that sentence
* prove it by offering **facts** about it, or
* **describe** it in more detail with **examples**

A good topic sentence offers a general overview of the contents of the paragraph. It is followed with specific details.

**Sample Topic Sentences:**

* Windmills were originally developed for a variety of purposes.
* Windmills evolved over time to become the wind turbines of today.

**Strategy:**

To create a topic sentence, use the main idea key words for each paragraph to help you transition the reader from the last paragraph to your current paragraph.

**Main idea key words:** windmills purpose

**Topic sentence:** Windmills were originally developed for a variety of purposes.