

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

Example 1:

We arrived late at the movie; *indeed*, we missed the first thirty minutes.

Indeed is a transition word. It clarifies how late we arrived at the movie.

Example 2:

We arrived late at the movie; *however* we missed the first thirty minutes.

However is the transition word in the second example, but doesn't make sense as it is used in the sentence. *However* is a transition word that shows contrast, yet there is no contrast to be made. Both clauses are about being late to the movie. A better sentence with *however* would be:

Example 3:

We left early to go to the movie; *however*, we still missed the first thirty minutes.

In Example 3, *however* shows the contrast between leaving early and still missing the beginning of the movie.

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. The book was interesting; **as a result**, it was hard to read.
3. Gordon finished his chores early; **meanwhile**, he had time to play football.
4. Sarah's horse is beautiful; **instead**, it is well-bred.
5. The sailors prepared the ship to sail; **otherwise**, the dock workers loaded the cargo.
6. Her sister had a cold; **however**, Julie's family canceled the trip.
7. Oranges are good for you; **nevertheless**, they are full of vitamin C.
8. Two seats were left on the bus; **similarly**, most of the group had to wait for the next one.

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

Example 1:

We arrived late at the movie; *indeed*, we missed the first thirty minutes.

Indeed is a transition word. It clarifies how late we arrived at the movie.

Example 2:

We arrived late at the movie; *however* we missed the first thirty minutes.

However is the transition word in the second example, but doesn't make sense as it is used in the sentence. *However* is a transition word that shows contrast, yet there is no contrast to be made. Both clauses are about being late to the movie. A better sentence with *however* would be:

Example 3:

We left early to go to the movie; *however*, we still missed the first thirty minutes.

In Example 3, *however* shows the contrast between leaving early and still missing the beginning of the movie.

Below are sentences with misused transition words. Cross out the incorrect transition words and write a better one in the space below the sentence. **Actual student answers will vary; examples of correct answers:**

1. Tim earned an A on the test; ~~even so~~, Justin also received an A.
likewise
2. The book was interesting; ~~as a result~~, it was hard to read.
although
3. Gordon finished his chores early; ~~meanwhile~~, he had time to play football.
as a result
4. Sarah's horse is beautiful; ~~instead~~, it is well-bred.
likewise
5. The sailors prepared the ship to sail; ~~otherwise~~, the dock workers loaded the cargo.
meanwhile
6. Her sister had a cold; ~~however~~, Julie's family canceled the trip.
consequently
7. Oranges are good for you; ~~nevertheless~~, they are full of vitamin C.
for example
8. Two seats were left on the bus; ~~similarly~~, most of the group had to wait for the next one.
therefore