

Transitions and Connectors

COORDINATORS	SUBORDINATORS			
For And Nor But Or Yet So First letters spell FANBOYS	After Although As far As As soon as As if As though Because Before Even if Even though	How If Inasmuch as In case that Insofar as In that Lest No matter how Now that Once	Provided that Since So that Than Through Till Unless Until When(ever) Wherever	Whether While Why

The COORDINATORS above are used to connect simple sentences (or independent clauses) to form compound sentences. In this sense, coordinators join two simple sentences to form a compound sentence.

The SUBORDINATORS above, plus some others, are used at the beginning of a clause which make the clause dependent, requiring an additional independent clause to form a complex sentence. A complex sentence is complex because it contains two different types of clauses, a dependent clause and an independent clause.

TRANSITIONS AND CONNECTORS are neither coordinators nor subordinators. Transitions and connectors are used within sentences to show relationships between ideas within sentences. Transitions and connectors can be used between sentences to show relationships between ideas in adjoining sentences, paragraphs, or even major sections of academic papers.

Have you ever taken a long journey to a distant destination on strange roads with only infrequent or poorly designed road signs? It can be both frightening and frustrating. Like a driver heading toward a destination, your reader is on a journey of discovery of your ideas, and you can help your reader toward his destination by providing clearly understood transitions and connectors. Transitions and connectors for your reader are like the road signs that guide the traveller. They help your reader understand your ideas.

Connectors	Contrast	Emphasis	Addition
Therefore Similarly Hence Then Consequently Also Thus	However Otherwise Instead of But Yet On the other hand Although Even though In contrast to (with) On the Contrary Still	Keep in mind Remember Most of all Most important The best thing The basic reason The chief factor Special attention... goes to should be paid to	First of all Another reason is In addition Also Moreover The most important reason is Finally For example This means that Equally important

Time showing Chronology	Time	Time			Comment
When I was five years old As a little girl When I grew older As a university student As an adult	Then Next Afterwards After this step Finally	The	first second third next final	step phase stage	Interestingly Surprisingly Undoubtedly Unavoidably Frustratingly

The following subordinating conjunctions and relative pronouns signal how the dependent clause is related to the sentence:

TIME: after, before, since, until, when, while

PLACE: where wherever

REASON: as, because, how, so, that, since

CONDITIONAL: although, if, unless, whether

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: that, which, who, whom, whose