

## A. Connections between Ideas

It is important to have clear, logical connections between ideas within sentences, paragraphs, and sections of a text. As you are writing, ask yourself what exact relationship there is between ideas and choose the best connections to express that relationship. Many possible expressions—transitions, conjunctions, prepositions, and other forms—make logical connections. Some examples are given in the list and Table 4.1.

### Examples of Appropriate Expressions for Connecting Ideas

#### Time

**As** you perform this diagnostic, **at the same time** it is important to. . . .

**Whenever** there is a thunderstorm. . . .

#### Space

**Where** these results will have the most impact is. . . .

**In** the south of Spain. . . .

**Adjacent to** the building there is. . . .

#### Means

We performed the experiment **using** a commonly accepted form.

We achieved the best results **by** double-checking all of the procedures and **by** immediately recording the. . . .

We performed the experiment **with** a beaker and a. . . .

**Through** wise distribution of resources, we were able to. . . .

#### Comparison/Contrast

**Whether** she chooses to take the written test **or** decides that the oral one is. . . .

Her first novel had interesting characters and a complex plot. Her short stories, **on the other hand**, were. . . .

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*Concession*

**Although** these plants do not grow well in rainy areas, it is **still** possible to. . . .

**Despite** the climatic conditions, these plants. . . .

*Cause/Reason*

**Because of** the hurricanes, gas prices are. . . .

**As a result of** the rainy weather, we. . . .

*Condition*

**If** this study were to be expanded upon, some areas to work on would be. . . .

**Unless** we act on this information immediately, many people. . . .

He must follow the doctor's orders carefully; **otherwise**, he might. . . .

*Elaboration/Analysis*

As we can see, there are **many issues to consider** when building. . . . **With respect to** materials, . . .

**More specifically**, we must consider the **particular issue** of the economic effects that. . . .

*Referring to a Specific Point in the Text*

The **following section** describes some outcomes of. . . .

**As mentioned earlier**, we can increase taxes or. . . .

**As mentioned above**, there are good reasons to. . . .

**Taking this into consideration**, we can assume that. . . .

**Table 4.1: Examples of Logical Connections**

Type of Logical Connection	Connecting Word/Phrase	Coordinating Conjunction (connects independent clauses)	Subordinating Conjunction (begins dependent clause)	Verb, Preposition, Adverb, and Other Forms
Adding an Idea	also furthermore in addition moreover another point is that . . .	and		additionally not only . . . but also both . . . and
Process/ Chronological Order	first then next last after that at the same time before while after meanwhile		after as as soon as before since until while	subsequently
Example	for instance for example to illustrate			
Comparison	also similarly in the same way similar to compared to			is/are similar in that . . . is/are alike
Contrast/ Concession	however in contrast to/with on the other hand alternatively in comparison to/with when compar- ing X to/ with Y	but yet	although even though though whereas while	differ with respect to is/are different differ from each other despite in spite of

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Table 4.1 (cont'd)

Type of Logical Connection	Connecting Word/Phrase	Coordinating Conjunction (connects independent clauses)	Subordinating Conjunction (begins dependent clause)	Verb, Preposition, Adverb, and Other Forms
Cause or Reason	the reason for this was taking this into consideration	for	because since as	due to the consequence result of because of
Effect/Result	as a result consequently one effect of this is as the above facts show therefore	so		bring about lead to produce generate create contribute to is/are responsible for result in
Condition			if unless	
Elaboration or Restatement	that is for example looking at this information, we can see that as for x with respect to with regard to indeed in fact more specifically specifically more precisely		who whom that which	
Emphasis				actually indeed in fact

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Table 4.1 (cont'd)

Type of Logical Connection	Connecting Word/Phrase	Coordinating Conjunction (connects independent clauses)	Subordinating Conjunction (begins dependent clause)	Verb, Preposition, Adverb, and Other Forms
Describing Means Used				by with in such a way that through using
Conclusion	therefore thus hence as you can see briefly in brief in short above all taking all this into account taking the above into consideration, we conclude that results show/ indicate/ imply given this information			
Alternative		or		either . . . or neither . . . nor another way is an alternative is alternatively

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## B. Words Often Confused

Correct word choice is essential in writing, so take special care with words that are often confused. The words and phrases in this list may be confused because their spellings or pronunciations are similar or because of their meanings. Short definitions or explanations are provided. Consult your dictionary for more information about these words and the differences between them. Remember, your word processor's spelling and grammar check function will probably not find errors you make with these words. Do not forget to proofread!

**aggravate** = to make a situation or condition worse than it already is

**annoy/irritate** = to make a person upset or angry

**all ready** = fully ready; entirely prepared

**already** = by this time; previously

**all right** = completely fine; without problem

**alright** = satisfactory; acceptable

**all together** = all at once; simultaneously

**altogether** = on the whole; completely

**any more** = additional

**anymore** = any longer; at the present time

**any one** = any single item of a group of items

**anyone** = any person

**between** = in the space or time that separates two things or people or from one to another

**among** = amid; surrounded by; in the space that separates more than two things or people

**borrow** = to take temporarily with the intention of returning (verb)

**lend** = to give temporarily with the intention of getting it back (verb)

**loan** = something given temporarily that is to be returned (noun) (*Loan* is also a verb.)

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