



Signalling transition

Extra practice with connecting words

Connecting words show the reader how two ideas relate. The wrong one sends the wrong signal. Each word has a job: adding (also, moreover), contrasting (however, nevertheless), result (therefore, as a result), reason (because, since), example (for example, such as), and ordering (first, finally).

Adding also, moreover, furthermore, in addition	Contrasting however, nevertheless, in contrast
Result therefore, thus, hence, as a result	Reason because, since, as, due to
Example for example, for instance, such as	Ordering first, second, finally, in conclusion

Comma rule: when a connector like however or therefore starts a sentence, put a comma after it.

SEE — *choose the connector that fits the link*

Underline the connector that matches the relationship between the two ideas.

1. The sample was small. (However / Therefore), the results were still clear. (contrast)
2. The road was closed. (Moreover / Therefore), the team took a longer route. (result)
3. The method is fast. (However / Moreover), it is cheap to run. (adding)
4. The trial stopped (because / however) the funding ended. (reason)

TRY — *fill the gap with the right connector*

Write a suitable connector in each gap. More than one word may fit.

5. The first method failed. _____, the second one worked well.
6. Costs rose sharply. _____, the project was cancelled.
7. Several metals conduct heat well, _____ copper and silver.
8. _____, we describe the method. Second, we report the results.

ACT — *fix the wrong connector*

Each sentence uses a connector that sends the wrong signal. Cross it out and write a better one.

9. The drug lowered blood pressure. Therefore, it had no effect on weight.

> _____

10. Rainfall increased sharply. However, the river burst its banks.

> _____

11. The budget was small. For example, the team still finished on time.

> _____

ACT — *join the two sentences*

Join each pair into one sentence using the connector in brackets. Watch the punctuation.

12. The test failed. The team tried again. (however)

> _____

13. The funding ended. The study stopped. (because)

> _____

14. The method is cheap. It is also fast. (moreover)

> _____

REFLECT — *judge the three versions*

The idea: the first result was weak, but the team kept going. Mark the best, then say what is wrong with the other two.

_____ a. The first result was weak. For example, the team continued the study.

_____ b. The first result was weak. Therefore, the team continued the study.

_____ c. The first result was weak. Nevertheless, the team continued the study.

Best: _____ What is wrong with the other two?

> _____



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Model answers and short explanations

SEE – choose the connector

1. However – the ideas contrast (small sample, yet clear).
2. Therefore – the closure caused the longer route.
3. Moreover – a second point of the same kind is added.
4. because – it gives the reason the trial stopped.

TRY – fill the gap (sample answers)

5. However / Nevertheless – contrast.
6. As a result / Therefore – result.
7. such as – introducing examples.
8. First – ordering.

ACT – fix the wrong connector

9. ... However, it had no effect on weight – the findings contrast.
10. ... As a result, the river burst its banks – one caused the other.
11. ... Nevertheless, the team still finished on time – contrast, not example.

ACT – join the sentences (sample answers)

12. The test failed; however, the team tried again.
13. The study stopped because the funding ended.
14. The method is cheap; moreover, it is fast.

REFLECT – judge the three versions

Best: c – 'Nevertheless' correctly signals they continued despite the weak result.

a and b are both wrong. 'a' uses 'For example', which makes no sense between these ideas. 'b' uses 'Therefore', which signals a result and reverses the meaning.

Source note. All sentences in this worksheet are original, written for teaching. The connector groups are informed by the Academic Phrasebank (John Morley, University of Manchester, 2023), 'A List of Words and Phrases for Connecting Ideas'. No part of the Phrasebank PDF is reproduced here.