

Transitions and Connectors

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

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

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