

Grade 4 Playlist: Linking Ideas Within Categories

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2.C*:

- Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., another, for example, also, because).

Welcome

An essay contains ideas that can be connected. The ideas can be linked together using words and phrases. These words and phrases show how the ideas in an essay fit together. Linking words and phrases can be particularly useful when grouping information because they help show that a group of details belong within one category. They also help sentences flow smoothly.

Objective

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- link ideas within a category using words and phrases such as *another*, *for example*, *also*, and *because*.

Review

Key Terms

- A **category** names a group of details, ideas, or things that belong together.
- A **phrase** is a small group of words.
- A **transition** is another name for a word or phrase that links ideas.

Read!

For a review of transition words, read the following list.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/transition%20words.pdf>

Exploring the Standard

There are many ways that ideas can be similar. The following is a list of some ways that ideas can be connected to each other:

- One idea might add to another idea.
- One idea might be an example of another idea.
- One idea might be the cause or effect of another idea.



Writers use linking words and phrases to show how ideas are connected. These linking words and phrases are sometimes called *transitions*. Read the following chart, which shows some examples.

Purpose	Linking Words	Example
to add to another idea	<i>in addition, also, another, as well</i>	In addition to sharp teeth, alligators also have powerful jaws.
to give an example	<i>for example, for instance, such as, like</i>	Alligators prefer living near calm, fresh water. For example , many alligators can be found in swamps and marshes.
to show cause and effect	<i>because, as a result, therefore, since</i>	Because alligators almost became extinct, they were added to the endangered species list. As a result of this protection, the number of alligators started growing again.

A Closer Look: Linking Ideas Within a Category

Example 1 is a paragraph from an essay that tells about the good and bad effects of video games. This paragraph contains all of the ideas that belong in the “good” category. However, the ideas are not joined together with linking words, so they sound disconnected.

Example 1

Video games have many benefits. They can improve players’ hand-eye motor skills. They require quick reflexes. A racecar game requires players to steer away from other cars. Video games can be played with friends. An exciting multi-player game can be a great social experience. Did you know video games are educational? Many games take place in real locations around the world and in different time periods throughout history.

The following section shows ways to add linking words and phrases to Example 1.

Add cause-and-effect relationships:

The following sentences from Example 1 show cause and effect:

“They can improve players’ hand-eye motor skills. They require quick reflexes.”

The linking word *because* can be added to show that there is a cause-and-effect relationship between the two sentences:

“They can improve players’ hand-eye motor skills **because** they require quick reflexes.”

Add examples:

This sentence from Example 1 gives an example to support the idea that video games require quick reflexes:

“A racecar game requires players to steer away from other cars.”

