

## Grade 8 Playlist: Using Transitions

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2.C*:

- Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.

### Welcome

Consider these sentences. “Stephanie did not make the honor roll. She won a ribbon in the school science fair.” What do these two facts have in common, and why would they be mentioned in the same thought? Now, consider the following sentence: “Stephanie did not make the honor roll even though she won a ribbon in the school science fair.” This sentence indicates that the fact that she won a science fair ribbon but did not make the honor roll is surprising, as if most students who win awards in the fair are honor roll students also.

Now, consider these sentences: “Stephanie did not make the honor roll, yet she won a ribbon in the school science fair.” “Stephanie did not make the honor roll; however, she won a ribbon in the school science fair.” The use of the words *yet* and *however* create a different understanding for the reader than *even though* while expressing a similar meaning. Which of these transitions makes the sentence most cohesive?

### Watch!

Watch this video to learn more about creating cohesion in your writing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XARVtm62W4>

### Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.

### Review

#### Key Terms

- **Transitions** are words, phrases, and clauses that are used to connect ideas and concepts.
- **Cohesion** is the unity in a text or speech that is achieved when all of its elements are appropriately and logically connected.

Transitions can be used to illustrate many types of relationships. Listed in the table below are a few of the most commonly used transitions.



Type of Relationship	Common Transitions	Usage
<b>time order</b>	After... Meanwhile... Then...	"David ordered a roast beef sandwich and ate it quickly. <i>Meanwhile</i> , Sarah decided to skip lunch and take a quick bike ride."
<b>location</b>	Above... In the distance... Nearby...	"We sat on the pier near the beach house eating popsicles. <i>In the distance</i> , a fireworks show was taking place."
<b>compare/contrast</b>	However... In the same way... On the other hand...	"Toads and frogs often look very much alike. <i>However</i> , frogs have different skin and must spend more time in the water than toads."
<b>example</b>	For instance... Specifically... To demonstrate...	"Some countries are small in area but large in population. <i>For instance</i> , India has less land area than the United States but over a billion people."
<b>cause and effect</b>	As a result... For this reason... Therefore...	"Mr. Conway lost about twenty pounds after he started exercising. <i>Therefore</i> , all of his pants are too big in the waist."

**Read!**

This webpage includes a list of transitions and the relationships they describe.

[http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/hlg/sber/downloads/linking\\_words.pdf](http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/hlg/sber/downloads/linking_words.pdf)

**Exploring the Standard****A Closer Look: Clarifying Relationships**

The relationships between ideas and concepts in a text should be made as clear as possible to the reader. One way to make unclear relationships easier to understand is to use transitions, which can take the form of individual words (*because, however*), short phrases (*in conclusion, for example*) or entire clauses (*by putting it a different way, to speak with a voice of great experience*).

Consider the following example. See how the author of this example grouped similar ideas into a single category (the Pony Express's beginnings) and then used transitions to demonstrate how the ideas are similar.

