

Differences between TRANSITIONS and SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Transitions are one to three words long: furthermore, / for example, / on the other hand, /

Transitions are embedded in **ONE clause – one full sentence**:

However, **not all newspapers value truth**.

The New York Times, for example, **has an editor to check all facts**.

Transitions are preceded by a full sentence. The transitions allow writers to move smoothly from one sentence idea by starting the second sentence with the transition:

Students should read newspapers to get accurate news. However, **not all newspapers value truth**.

Find reliable newspapers that value accuracy. **The New York Times**, for example, **has an editor to check all facts**.

SC words are one word: although / since / because / if / (except for **even though**, which is a **two-word SC**)

SC words introduce a **SECOND** clause that is **ADDED** to a full sentence.

In other words, you have two different ideas:

one can stand alone = main clause

one begins with the SC word and can not stand alone = dependent clause

LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES CAREFULLY:

Although some journalists are dishonest, most report facts.

If the SC is at the beginning, use a comma to **UNBURY** the main clause.

1 idea: some journalists are dishonest

1 idea: most report facts

although some journalists are dishonest = dependent – cannot stand alone

most report facts = main clause – can stand alone as a complete sentence

Students should only read major newspapers **because** those are most reliable.

DO NOT use a comma if the SC is in the middle. You **don't need to unbury** the main clause.

1 idea: students should only read major newspapers

1 idea: because those are most reliable

students should only read major newspapers = main clause – can stand alone as a complete sentence

because those are most reliable = dependent – cannot stand alone

Try these exercises as practice. Add commas where needed. The answers are included below the exercise.

1. Unfortunately I don't have time to see a movie this weekend.
2. I do have time to go out for dinner however.
3. Whenever I have spare time I like to paint portraits of my cats.
4. The students stopped at Starbucks even though they were late for class.
5. Not all the students can attend the event since some must go to class.
6. If we don't fight for our rights we might lose them.
7. Because not all websites are reliable sources students should use library databases for research projects.
8. The library has excellent databases. For example EBSCOhost gives students access to many major newspapers, magazines, and journals.
9. Always give yourself three weeks to write a paper because you will need to write several drafts.
10. Even though I'm really busy this weekend I will make time to attend the play *Peter and the Starcatcher* at LAMC on Saturday.

TURN IN THIS WORKSHEET FOR EXTRA CREDIT. BE SURE TO CHECK THE ANSWER KEY BELOW BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR WORK.

1. Unfortunately, I don't have time to see a movie this weekend.
2. I do have time to go out for dinner, however.
3. Whenever I have spare time, I like to paint portraits of my cats.
4. The students stopped at Starbucks even though they were late for class.
5. Not all the students can attend the event since some must go to class.
6. If we don't fight for our rights, we might lose them.
7. Because not all websites are reliable sources, students should use library databases for research projects.
8. The library has excellent databases. For example, EBSCOhost gives students access to many major newspapers, magazines, and journals.
9. Always give yourself three weeks to write a paper because you will need to write several drafts.
10. Even though I'm really busy this weekend, I will make time to attend the play *Peter and the Starcatcher* at LAMC on Saturday.

Write some of your own sentences using the words below. For the transitions, write two sentences so that you can practice moving smoothly from one sentence idea by starting the second sentence with the transition.

1. because
2. moreover
3. unfortunately
4. if
5. whenever
6. in fact
7. therefore
8. even though
9. although
10. as a result