

Lesson: Focus revision on a specific element as: transitional words

Fourth Grade Objective: 4.083 enrichment

Lesson

1. When writing stories, authors connect ideas and actions to one another by using transitional words. Because the author is able to establish the connection among ideas, the reader is able to follow the story logically from beginning to end. Transitional words help organize the story events.
2. Some examples of transitional words can be found in the box below:

Transitional Words		
Shortly after that	Meanwhile	Along the way . . .
Before long	Earlier	Soon
At that very moment	Finally	Next
As soon as	Later	No sooner . . .
While		
For example	Without warning	Mainly
Otherwise	Also	Even though
Furthermore		

3. Let's look at some examples of how to use transitional words to connect ideas. First, let's look at the following sentences.

➤ Sam and I went to the park. Tim went fishing.

Neither of these sentences contain transitional words. It is unclear to the reader how the events are related to one another. Did they occur at the same time? Did one happen as a result of the other? Did they occur at separate times? Now look at the sentences below that include transitions. Notice how the use of the transitions help to show the relationship between the two ideas.

- ***While*** Sam and I went to the park, Tim went fishing.
- Sam and I went to the park. ***Shortly after that***, Tim went fishing.
- ***Because*** Sam and I went to the park. Tim decided to go fishing.

The transitional words (words in bold italicized print) show the relationship between the two sentences.

4. Read The Brave Little Tailor by Peggy Thomson. As you read, look for examples of sentences that use transitional words or phrases. Record the sentences on a sheet of paper and highlight the transitional word or phrase in each sentence.

Check your answers

The following is a list of some of the sentences from the first five pages in the book that contain transitional words or phrases. Compare your list to the one below.

1. **When** she reached his room, she unpacked the jams.
2. The old woman had expected more from such a fussy customer, especially after she had climbed all those steps, **so** she grumbled a little as she filled a glass jar half way and put on a lid.
3. **After** she had left, the tailor took a knife and a loaf of bread from the cupboard.
4. **Finally**, the little tailor, who was hungry and short tempered, grabbed a piece of leftover cloth from his worktable and angrily swatted with all his might.
5. **When** he looked down, there were seven flies stretched out dead in front of him.
6. **After a while**, he climbed a path that led up the side of a steep mountain.
7. **When he reached the top** and paused to catch his breath, the tailor found himself face-to-face with a giant, who was sitting on a rock.
8. His eyes widened with fear, **as** he wondered if he had met his match.
9. But giants have their pride, too, **so** he decided to test the strength of the boastful little tailor.
10. He picked up another stone and threw it so far that they lost sight of it until, **finally**, they heard it splash into a nearby pond.
11. But **no sooner** had he spoken than the little tailor took the bird from his pocket and threw her up in the air.

Try these on your own!

Revise the sentences above by using a different transitional word or phrase. You may use ideas from the box above or other transitions that you already know. You may rearrange the order of the sentence, omit, or add words as needed. Write your new sentences on a separate sheet of paper. Remember, the sentences should still make sense. Use transitional words or phrases that logically connect the ideas.

Check your answers

The following are examples of transitional words or phrases that could be used. There are many possible answers.

1. **As soon as** she reached his room, she unpacked the jams.
2. **Because** the old woman had expected more from such a fussy customer, especially after she had climbed all those steps, she grumbled a little as she filled a glass jar half way and put on a lid.
3. **Shortly after** she had left, the tailor took a knife and a loaf of bread from the cupboard.
4. **Before long**, the little tailor, who was hungry and short tempered, grabbed a piece of leftover cloth from his worktable and angrily swatted with all his might.
5. **At the very moment** he looked down, there were seven flies stretched out dead in front of him.
6. **Later on**, he climbed a path that led up the side of a steep mountain.
7. He reached the top and paused to catch his breath. **Without warning**, the tailor found himself face-to-face with a giant, who was sitting on a rock.

8. **Because** he wondered if he had met his match, his eyes widened with fear.
9. **Not a moment too soon,** he decided to test the strength of the boastful little tailor because giants have their pride, too.
10. He picked up another stone and threw it so far that they lost sight of it until, **after a while,** they heard it splash into a nearby pond.
11. **As soon as** he had spoken, the little tailor took the bird from his pocket and threw her up in the air.

More Practice

1. Search for examples of transitional words or phrases in books that you read. After you identify the transitional word or phrase, think about how the transitions show the relationship between those ideas.
2. Revise one of your stories for transitions by connecting ideas and actions with some of the transitional words or phrases in the box above.