Transitions: choose the logical relationship first

Original skill preparation; versioned source scope

Transitions: Choose the Logical Relationship First

- Decide the relationship between two sentences before reading the options.
- Choose a transition for addition, **contrast** 对比, **consequence** 结果, example or sequence.
- Recognise a **concession** 让步: admitting a point before making another.
- Use "however" with correct sentence boundaries.

Name the relationship first

- Read the sentence before the blank and the sentence after it. Cover the options.
- Ask: is the second idea more of the same, a difference, a result, an example, a later step or a concession?
- Only then look for a transition that expresses that relationship.

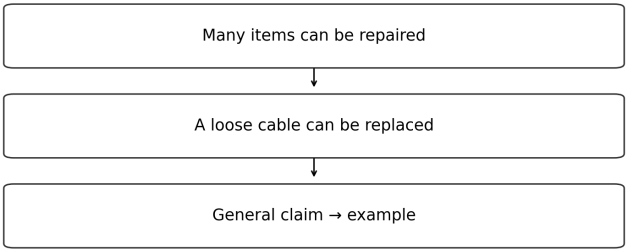
Families of transitions

- Addition: moreover, furthermore, in addition, also.
- **Contrast**: however, by contrast, nevertheless, on the other hand.
- Consequence: therefore, as a result, consequently, thus.

Families of transitions (2)

- Example: for example, for instance. Sequence: then, next, finally, subsequently.
- Concession: admittedly, granted, of course (often followed later by "but" or "still").
- Similarity: similarly, likewise.

Figure: Families of transitions



- Worked steps: Many items can be repaired $\rightarrow$ A loose cable can be replaced $\rightarrow$ General claim $\rightarrow$ example
- Match each part of the diagram to the text.

Transitions and punctuation

- Transitions such as "however" and "therefore" are not conjunctions: they cannot join two sentences with a comma alone.
- Correct: "It is free; however, it is only open on weekdays." Or: "It is free. However, it is only open on weekdays."
- Wrong: "It is free, however it is only open on weekdays."

Practice passage

- **Passage.** The new catalogue can be searched from home. [1] Readers no longer need to travel merely to find a likely shelf number.
- It still omits several collections. [2] A reader looking for an unlisted item must contact staff.
- Some entries also use abbreviations. [3] "MS" identifies a manuscript rather than a printed book.

Worked example: three blanks

1. Searching from home leads to not needing to travel: consequence. "Therefore," fits.
2. Missing collections lead to contacting staff: consequence again. "Consequently," fits.
3. "MS" is one case of an abbreviation: example. "For example," fits; "similarly" would wrongly suggest a second, parallel point.

Worked example: contrast and concession

- To **contrast** home access with incomplete coverage: "The catalogue can be searched from home; however, it still omits several collections."
- "The guide is free. ____, it is only available on weekdays." The second idea limits an advantage: contrast ("However"), not consequence. Being free does not cause the weekday timetable.
- A concession version: "Admittedly, the guide is only available on weekdays. Still, it is free."

Common errors

- Choosing a transition by its sound before naming the relationship.
- Using "therefore" when the second idea is not a result.
- Using "similarly" for an example.

Common errors (2)

- Joining two independent clauses with "however" and a comma alone.
- Reading only the sentence before the blank.

Key terms

- **transition**: A word or phrase that shows how two ideas are related.
- **contrast**: A difference between two ideas.
- **consequence**: A result that follows from something else.
- **concession**: Admitting that an opposing point is true before continuing.

Check yourself

- "The road was icy. ____, the school opened late." Which relationship and which transition?
- "Many birds migrate. ____, the Arctic tern flies from pole to pole." Which transition?
- Correct the punctuation: "It rained, however we played."