

Tools for Instruction

Use Words That Connect Ideas

Writers use specific words and phrases to show the connections between ideas in a text. Review common words and phrases that signal contrast, addition, comparison, and cause-and-effect relationships. When students understand how these words connect ideas, they can follow the logic of a text and express their own ideas clearly in writing. Provide opportunities for students to practice using words and phrases that signal contrast, addition, comparison, and cause-and-effect relationships.

Step by Step 30–45 minutes

1 Introduce words that connect ideas.

- Display a chart of words and phrases that signal contrast, addition, comparison, and cause-and-effect relationships.

Connection	Words and Phrases	Examples
Addition	also, as well as, in addition, furthermore	My neighbors hired me to walk and feed their dog. <u>In addition</u> , they asked me to take care of their cat.
Comparison	in the same way, similarly	It sounded fun. I like walking dogs. <u>Similarly</u> , I enjoy taking care of cats.
Cause and Effect	as a result, because, consequently, so, therefore	I opened the door to walk the dog, but <u>as a result</u> , the cat escaped!
Contrast	although, but, however, nevertheless, still, yet	I thought the job would be easy. <u>However</u> , it took hours to find the cat and get her back inside.

- Review the example words and sentences for each category and explain the meaning of each target word or phrase used in the example sentences.
- Have partners take turns using one of the words or phrases in a sentence. Ask volunteers to share their sentences with the larger group. (I like soccer as well as gymnastics.) If necessary, provide more examples to demonstrate how to use a word or phrase correctly.

2 Guide practice using words that connect ideas.

- Display and read the following cloze sentences.

I wanted to take the dog for a long walk. _____, it was raining hard. (Contrast: *However, But*)

The dog doesn't like to get wet. _____, we only went for a short walk. (Cause and Effect: *As a result, Consequently, So, Therefore*)

_____, the cat doesn't like to get wet either. (Comparison: *Similarly*)

The dog and cat were happy to stay inside. _____, they were excited when I gave them extra treats. (Addition: *Also, In addition, Furthermore*)

- Have partners work together to complete each sentence using words from the chart above.
- Partners can take turns reading the sentences aloud to check if they make sense.
- Ask volunteers to share their complete sentences with the larger group. Help clarify the meaning and the correct usage of each word or phrase.

3 Practice using words that connect ideas.

- Have students work in groups to tell a story using one of the following prompts or a prompt that you provide.

- The team set out to establish the first settlement on Mars...
- Hector's parents knew how much he had always wanted a pet...
- Terrance and Jamila were close friends, but they saw things very differently...

- Provide each group with a set of words and phrases from the earlier chart, written on separate index cards. Have each student select a card.
- Have students in each group take turns adding a sentence to the story using the target word or phrase from the selected card. The story can be silly, but the connections between ideas must make sense.

Check for Understanding

If you observe...	Then try...
difficulty understanding the function of specific words or phrases that connect ideas	<p>having students work with partners to look through an informational text to find words or phrases that connect ideas. Have them identify the two ideas connected by the target word or phrase. For example, a science text might include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can the spacecraft fly near the sun without melting? <u>The sun is very hot; however, the ship has a special shield to protect it.</u></i> <p>Have students discuss the relationship between the two ideas. Ask, <i>Is something being compared or contrasted? Does one thing cause another?</i></p>