

Lesson Skill: Transition words in writing

Strand Writing

SOL 3.9, 3.10

4.6, 4.7

5.6, 5.7

Materials

- Copies of the Transition Word Sort (attached)
- Content area textbook
- Magazines with pictures for cutting

Lesson

1. Have students cut out the word-sort cards and sort the words under the correct headings of Time, Space, Examples, and Summary, which are included in the sort cards.

Teacher Key

- **Time:** after, next, meanwhile, before
 - **Examples:** for example, for instance, in other words
 - **Space:** below, around, beside, next to
 - **Summary:** therefore, finally, as a result, in conclusion, behind
2. Have students do a word hunt in their science or social studies textbooks (or another textbook) for transition words to add to the sort. Note: There are other categories of transition words. Should students find words that would fit under headings other than Time, Space, Examples, and Summary, they can make a column for Other Words, or they can create categories on their own.
 3. Have students find a picture in a magazine that they feel would inspire a “How-To” piece of writing. For example, students may tear out a picture of an ad for dog shampoo, then write a piece entitled “How to Bathe Your Dog.” Have students write a “How-To” paragraph about their magazine picture using their new bank of words (from the above hunt-and-sort).

Strategies for Differentiation

- Ask, “What are examples of words in a story that indicate the order the events took place?” Explain the purpose of transition words in reading and writing.
- Display a list of transition words. Ask students to use transition words in sentences and share them with the class. Discuss appropriate times to use specific transition words.
- Model the use of transition words by reading a “How to...” aloud.
- Provide small groups with sample essays, and have students put a colored box around all transition words.

Transition Word Sort

Directions: Cut apart all word cards. Sort the transition words (non-bold print) under the headings (bold print).

Time	after	beside	as a result	below
Examples	therefore	for instance	meanwhile	in conclusion
Space	next to	next	for example	behind
Summary	in other words	around	finally	before