

Activity Type

Vocabulary and Grammar Exercises: categorising, rewriting sentences, gap-fill, binary choice

Focus

Transition words to show contrast, cause and effect

Aim

To learn and practice transition words that show contrast, cause and effect.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this transition words worksheet, students learn and practice transition words that show contrast, cause and effect.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Read through how transition words are used with the class. You may also need to explain the grammar used with each transition word on the worksheet, e.g. *despite* and *in spite of* are followed by either a noun, pronoun or gerund.

Students begin by categorizing transition words that contrast ideas or show cause and effect.

Exercise A - Answer key

Contrast: although, even though, however, despite, in spite of

Cause: because, as a result of, due to, since

Effect: so, consequently, as a result, therefore

Students then join clauses together with appropriate transition words, rewriting each sentence as necessary.

Exercise B - Possible answers

1. so, therefore, consequently, as a result
2. so, therefore, consequently, as a result
3. although, even though, however, despite, in spite of
4. although, even though, however, despite, in spite of
5. because of, as a result of, due to, since
6. so, therefore, consequently, as a result

After that, students read a story and complete the gaps with transition words from the category indicated in brackets, adding any necessary punctuation.

Exercise C - Possible answers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. although/even though | 6. as a result/consequently |
| 2. so/therefore | 7. despite/in spite of |
| 3. because of/due to/as a result of | 8. because of/due to |
| 4. however/although | 9. as a result/consequently |
| 5. so/therefore | 10. as a result/consequently |

Finally, students underline the correct transition words in a set of sentences.

Exercise D - Answer key

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Due to | 4. therefore | 7. Despite |
| 2. Despite | 5. as a result | 8. because of |
| 3. Since | 6. Even though | |

Transition words can be used to link two independent clauses together. While connecting ideas, they also show the relationship between the clauses that are being joined.

Below are some transition words that can be used to contrast ideas or show cause and effect.

A. Put the transition words in the correct category.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| although | because of | however | despite |
| even though | due to | so | therefore |
| as a result of | in spite of | consequently | since |

Contrast	Cause	Effect

B. Join the clauses together with appropriate transition words, rewriting each sentence as necessary.

Example: I missed my lecture. There was bad traffic.

..... *I missed my lecture **due to** bad traffic.*

1. Patrick is 17. He can't vote.

.....

2. Today is Sara's 10 year anniversary with her company. She got a raise.

.....

3. The bag was handmade. It wasn't expensive.

.....

4. It was my first time salsa dancing. I was good at it.

.....

5. Andrew had to repeat the course. He never did any homework.

.....

6. Claire ate a lot of junk food. She was sick.

.....

C. Read the story below and complete the gaps with transition words from the category in brackets, adding punctuation as necessary.**"From City Life to Country Life"**

Six months ago, I moved from a big city to a small town in the countryside. (1)
(contrast)
country life is nice, adjusting to this new life has been a bit difficult. There aren't many
restaurants (2) I don't eat out very much anymore, which I miss a lot. But,
(effect)
(3) this, I've been saving a lot of money. Luckily, there are a few grocery stores
(cause)
in the center of my town (4) the hours are very limited during the week
(contrast)
(5) I can only do my shopping on the weekend. Another major adjustment is
(effect)
the lack of people. I used to live in a place where there were many people and
(6) there was a lot of activity. Now, everything seems so quiet and there
(effect)
is barely anyone around. (7) these difficulties, I'm starting to
(contrast)
enjoy this new lifestyle. The cost of living in the city was so high and it was sometimes
difficult to sleep at night with all the chaos. I continue to remind myself that (8)
(cause)
these reasons I made my decision to move. Now I'm sleeping better, saving money and
(9) I feel significantly more relaxed. Not to mention, the view is much nicer
(effect)
here and (10) I'm beginning to feel like this was the right decision.
(effect)

D. Underline the correct transition word.

1. *Due to / Despite* the flu, Alexander won't be coming to work today.
2. Because of / *Despite* our efforts to prevent pollution, people are continuing to litter.
3. *Since / Although* you finished all the dessert that I made last night, we don't have anything to offer our guests.
4. Elisa drank a lot of coffee today *however / therefore* she couldn't fall asleep.
5. Simon hasn't shown up to work for the past three days and *as a result / since* he was fired.
6. *Even though / As a result* I've invited the whole family over for Christmas dinner, only a few of them are coming.
7. *Despite / Since* having more job experience, the other candidate was chosen instead.
8. Once a year my friends and I organize a reunion and *despite / because of* this we've managed to keep in touch.